

Worship Plan for Sunday, January 1, 2023

Name of Jesus

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

Introduction to the day

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 1, 2023

NAME OF JESUS

Chosen Families

When the shepherds arrived, they came upon a scene not unlike that in many nativity sets: Mary and Joseph, gazing adoringly (and sleepily, no doubt!) at the manger between them. This holy family, at once biological and chosen, encourages us to think with compassion and divine creativity about our own definitions of family and belonging.

Jesus, in both his name and his very being, was known and loved well before his conception, birth, or ritual entry into the community. This heir of God and adopted son was known and loved deeply and given a mission and purpose in the world.

We also, as heirs of God’s mysteries, and as adopted children, are named, commissioned, and blessed, not because of our lineage, our ancestry, or our family affiliation, but because God is love. Through the infant Christ, we can see and know ourselves to be part of the family of God for which we and all people have been chosen.

This and all holiday seasons carry many cultural expectations and assumptions about families and family gatherings. How can our communities of faith, in this season and beyond, take special care to notice, include, and be transformed by the gifts of those who are single; those who are childless by choice or circumstance; those who are separated, divorced, or widowed; multigenerational households; same-gender couples and families; those who find family in places of congregate living; those who find kinship with communities of grief, recovery, or shared interest? How can we recognize and care for those in our communities who need to be embraced, included, seen, and loved for who God created them to be?

May the nontraditional nature of the holy family help us recognize familial love in all relationships where belonging is fostered, trust is built, encouragement is given, and joys and griefs alike are shared. May we see ourselves and all God’s children as kin and kindred: one body, with its many diverse and beautiful members.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELL RINGING

WELCOME & INTRO TO THE DAY

GATHERING SONG (ELW p. 203)

APOSTOLIC GREETING

GLORIA DEI -- CHRISTMAS HYMN (ELW p. 203)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 205)

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from Numbers.

God commanded Aaron to say these words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with God's name and God's blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into the world.

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, ²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from Galatians.

Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,

crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION PLUS BRYSON'S ALLELUIA (ELW p. 205)

GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 206)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Guide your church to confess that Jesus is Lord. Fill us with wonder at the good and saving news of Jesus. May we treasure your words and meditate upon them, that we reveal your glory to the world with humility and hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your name, O God, is majestic in all the earth. You set the moon and stars in their courses. You are mindful of every work of your hand: flocks and cattle, birds and fish, seas and fields. Make us wise stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless the nations with your grace and peace. Inspire and uphold treaties, cease-fires, and international agreements that seek to calm strife between nations. Shield all those who work to protect vulnerable populations from exploitation or danger. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We cry, "Abba! Father!" as we seek your loving care in times of need. Heal those wounded by hurtful words. Console all who are weighed down by depression and anxiety. Call by name any who feel unloved, misunderstood, or rejected. Heal the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reveal yourself to us in the fullness of time, O God. Give us gratitude for what has been and hope for what is to come. Grace us with your presence during transitions: new jobs or schools, new homes, new diagnoses, or new relationships. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember all the saints who proclaimed the name of Jesus in life and who now rest in glory. Show us our inheritance as adopted heirs of eternal life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING MEDITATION MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER -- IN UNISON

GREAT THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.
Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG -- ACS 962 IN THIS FEAST OF LOVE (ELW p. 208)
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION -- IN UNISON

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
☩ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW p. 209)**DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE --

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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