

Second Sunday after Christmas
January 3, 2021
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
Brooklyn Center, MN

Welcome to worship at Cross of Glory! Today, the first Sunday of the month, we will celebrate Holy Communion. As we prepare to take part in this meal together from home, please gather bread (or a cracker) and wine (or juice).

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gift of mercy for all. **Amen.**

Let us take a moment of silence to confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

O God, we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have acted on behalf of ourselves instead of our neighbors; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

God's loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are forgiven, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy abundantly poured out on us. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God gives you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, this day and everyday. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG #715 Christ Be our Light verses 1, 2 and 5

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| <p>1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.</p> <p>2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. Refrain</p> | <p>Refrain Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.</p> <p>5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. Refrain</p> |
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE We Have a Savior

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| <p>1 A child has been given
The King of our freedom
Sing for the light has come
This is Christmas</p> | <p>2 Come and adore Him
And bring gifts before Him
Joy to the world
Worship the Son
This is Christmas</p> |
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Chorus This is Jesus Emmanuel
Here with us tell all the world
We have a Savior we have a Savior
We are no longer lost
'Cause He has come down for us
We have a Savior we have a Savior

His love will reign forever
His love will reign forever
His love will reign forever (REPEAT)

3 Sing with the angels
And lift up your voices
Join in the song of hope
This is Christmas

PRAYER OF THE DAY The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray . . . **God Emmanuel, shine in our hearts the light of your wisdom, your truth, and your grace, that we may brightly reflect your love in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Psalm 147:12-20

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
¹³who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.
¹⁴God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.
¹⁶God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.
¹⁷God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?
¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.
¹⁹God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.
²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother

said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON **Pastor Mark Tranvik**

My dear friends at Cross of Glory: What an honor to be back in the pulpit. Ann and I have fond memories of our time here and we are grateful for all the ways you shaped us and the many kindnesses that were extended to us. Our biggest regret, of course, is that we can't pass on these good wishes in person as we are still enclosed in these crazy but necessary masks.

I want to say thank you to Ali **Tranvik** for inviting me to preach today.

Also: Happy New Year! And may 2021 be a better year than 2020. That's a pretty low bar, of course. When I think of 2020, things like the Edsel, the Titanic, the New Coke, and the Timberwolves come to mind. 2020 is to years as a pack of Marlboros is to public health. Let's do one more as long as you are laughing... 2020 is to years as the Vikings are to Super Bowls. Now you know why I don't do stand-up.

Anyway...it is over!! It is both a privilege...and because it is preaching...a blessed struggle...to deliver the message this morning.

Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our text today is the only glimpse we get of Jesus between his **infancy and adult years**. That's right, except for our story.... we leap across the years from the infant Jesus to the thirty-year-old adult...nothing in between. Actually a fascinating account with a number of different layers. I would like to pick out two things.

Let's start by highlighting the fact that Jesus is a Jew.

Sometimes the image of Jesus in the temple is restricted to the incident in the last week of his life...when with violence he takes a whip in hand and clears the place of moneychangers. And we cheer him for taking on the corrupt Jewish establishment.

But in our text Jesus is in the temple...while Mary and Joseph are consumed with a frantic search...he is in the temple teaching and listening to the Jewish priests and scribes. Nor is this an isolated example. On several occasions in the gospels he is pictured in the temple, discussing and debating. The temple is a natural place for him to be. In other words, Jesus is a **Jew!!** He didn't drop from the sky as a Christian in the middle of the first century.

He is embedded in a people...the people of Israel. The **blood** flowing in his veins is Jewish blood. The blood of Abraham and Sarah and Jacob and Rachel.

The **soil** on his feet is Jewish soil. It is the soil of Nazereth and Bethlehem and Capernaum and Bethany.

The **Bible** from which he quotes is the Jewish Bible. The story of Israel is his story. He knows the Psalms and Jonah and Isaiah and Genesis and he quotes from them regularly.

His **name** is a Jewish name. Yeshua means in Hebrew one who saves. He is called the Son of David. He is referred to as rabbi, which is Jewish for teacher.

Why am I bringing this up?? When we deny the essential Jewishness of Jesus we are not only doing bad history but we move a **step closer** to what can only be described as a long and shameful history of anti-Semitism in the Christian church. For centuries, Christians have blamed Jews for the death of Jesus. It is a legacy littered with exclusion and camps and executions. I have a friend in Minneapolis who is a rabbi. She told me recently she always

keeps a **bag packed**. Really. I couldn't believe it. She said, **Oh, we know**. We might be forced to move along...or worse...at **any time**. Folks...we dare not lose sight of Jesus as a Jew. In fact, we need to remember that the entire tree is not Christian. Rather the trunk is Jewish and we Christians are the ones that are grafted on to it. Read Romans 9-11... for that is exactly how the Apostle Paul puts it.

So that is the **first point**. We worship a crucified and risen **Jew**. The boy Jesus in the temple is doing what any faithful Jew would do...worship, pray, and discuss the texts.

The other theme in this story that I want to lift up is the **experience of being lost**. I would like to jumble things up a bit and suggest to you that Jesus wasn't lost.

In fact, Jesus appears to be doing just fine!

He is in the temple, debating and discussing texts with the Jewish scholars. From a certain angle, the ones who are lost are Mary and Joseph! On the way home from Passover they discover that is Jesus not with them or the large group of family and friends that accompanied them to Jerusalem. Buried in the story is an astonishing detail...**it took 3 days to find him!!**

Chew on that one for a moment...3 days...looking for your 12 yr. old. It reminds me of something that happened to me when our boys were young. I was Christmas shopping with our two sons, Isak and David. I think David was around 2 1/2 or 3 and Isak was 7 or 8. We were in Macy's in the Mall of America. I distinctly remember looking at Isak and asking: Where is David?? Uh...oh. We couldn't find him. Most of you know the feeling: **sheer panic**. There's **guilt**: I am a horrible parent. How could I let this happen?? There's **fear**: Did somebody take him? Is his face destined for a milk carton? I am sure this lasted only 3-4 minutes, but it seems like an eternity. And then.... the fire alarm starts ringing.

Isak sprints to the back door and **discovers** his little brother, who is sort of enjoying the noise and attention. And, of course, I pick him up and embrace him. I have never been so happy to hear a fire alarm in my entire life. Eventually we got everything straightened out and made the requisite apologies.

But back to the point of the story. David wasn't really lost. He was actually doing fine...even having fun. **Like Mary and Joseph, I was the one who was lost**. That terrible sense of being **lost**. Let's dwell on that a moment. Of course, some people **know** they are lost. Some folks are so terribly hard on themselves. They beat themselves up. Trapped by unrealistic expectations or cruel things done in their childhoods, they go through life haunted by judgmental voices.

You should have done this. You should not have said that. You let that opportunity go. You walked down that path...the one you know is a dead-end. Of course, these voices are loud but they seldom stay **within**. Rather they reverberate outward. And what does the world see??

Someone in perpetual retreat, trapped by fear, hemmed in by caution. Living examples of the phrase: Died at 30 or 40 and buried at 80. Bottom line: a deep sense of being **lost**.

And, then of course, there are some people who **have no idea they are lost**. They project confidence and great pride in their own accomplishments. Their creed is the **stupid** refrain from Frank Sinatra's song: **I did it my way**.

Life is a balance sheet, a transaction. Winners and losers. In this game, discipline and hard work are all that really matter, or so they think. Fall behind and it's your fault. They seldom stop to ask why so many are falling behind. They never wonder why the skin color of those not keeping up might be different than their own. They are like the **older brother** in the parable of the prodigal son. His father comes out to look for him, wondering why he is not joining the celebration. All the older son can do is glare: **I worked hard for you all these years and you have never given me a party!**

Lost. Lost. So many of are lost...and there are lots of ways of being LOST.

Now, you might be saying, well Mary and Joseph did **eventually** find Jesus. So the story ends on a happy note! But you see, folks, they are going to **lose** him again. Some twenty years later he will wind his way back to Jerusalem...and he will get so **lost**. In the midst of another Passover

crowd, he is lost yet again. Only his enemies will know where to find him. And his enemies are his friends. Peter, James and John find him in danger and they betray him. The priests and scribes will find him, but in the name of religion hand him over to the state. Pilate and the Roman power structure finds him, and in the name of order kill him.

And he will die alone and yes...lost...very, very lost. There is no greater sense of loss...than the cry: **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Despised and rejected...as one from whom others hide their faces.** And then God raises him up. For you.

Finally, then, all is not lost. **Neither are you.** For you are in the hands of that shepherd who leaves the 99 and goes looking for the one who is lost. For you are in the hands of that woman, who loses the coin and then sweeps the house until it is found. You have been found...lifted up...and embraced by the One who says to you: You might run away...you might get left behind...but you will never, finally be lost. You...you...are my beloved son, my beloved daughter.

Lost...yes...but more importantly found. Please think about these things...

HYMN OF THE DAY #815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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| <p>1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.</p> | <p>Refrain In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.</p> |
| <p>2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. Refrain</p> | <p>3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus. When we
have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain</p> |

CONFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Dwelling in the presence of God-with-us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in any need...

God of wisdom, as we hear the story of young Jesus today, we ask that you would open our ears to hear your grace through the words and deeds of the children among us. We give you thanks for the children in our lives, and for their gifts of courage, curiosity, truthfulness, and imagination. Bless all children in our community as they soon begin the new school year and give students, parents, and teachers patience and persistence as they continue to face the challenges of distance learning. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of creation, we praise you for the gifts of your creation--for the land, sea, and sky, for the sun and the moon, the lengthening of the days that brings light, and for the peaceful stillness of these

dark winter nights. Today we bear in mind all those who are sleeping outside this winter, all those for whom there is no room at the inn. Open our hearts and our homes that we might lovingly care for the earth and for all those within it as you have first loved us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, give our weary throats a song of hope, even when we don't know how to sing it. We pray for all those who are despairing today. For those grieving the absence of loved ones. For those struggling with addiction. For those looking for work. For those who are overworked and underpaid. For those who find themselves in the depths of depression. For those fleeing from violence. For those whose spirits hunger for connection and community, and those whose stomachs hunger for bread. May your light pierce through our darkness, and may your hope disrupt our despair. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, we pray for all those who are sick or suffering, and for all those who lovingly and courageously care for them. Be with nursing home employees and healthcare workers, mental health counselors and hospital chaplains. Surround all those in need of your healing hand today. We pray especially for Gil Hartlage, Terry Stejskal, Vicky Jacobson, Jeannie Kuzmich, and the families of Julie Aulwes, Lori Balzer, Sharon Quick, and Dave and Nancy Hengel. Be a balm to broken hearts and give rest to broken bodies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, in this season of Christmas, as we dwell on the ways that your body came to dwell among us, we give you thanks for the body of Christ here at Cross of Glory. Draw us together even while we are physically apart, until the day we can gather around this table in person again, and until the day when we will all join together with all the saints at your heavenly table. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all those prayers we've brought to light today and for all the prayers that remain in the dark depths of our hearts, we lift them all to you in the name of the one who dwells with us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING

Offerings may be mailed to the church (5929 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429), or given online at www.crossofglory.us. Thank you for continuing to support the work of Cross of Glory during this time apart!

OFFERING RESPONSE

#292 Love Has Come

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| <p>1 Love has come--a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.</p> | <p>2 Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now among us today.
See the love in the eyes of his mother,
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she calls him;
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.</p> |
| <p>3 Love has come and will never leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift now given.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!</p> | |

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, your love shines forth from the manger and flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, may your love shine through us, extending your care to the hungry, the poor, and to all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The body of Christ is given for you. The blood of Christ is shed for you.

You are invited to partake in this holy meal at home with a form of bread and either wine or juice, trusting that God is present in it, and that it draws us together as one body, even while we are apart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the life-giving Spirit who shines on you, ✠ bless you and keep you in hope and love. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH SONG #242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn verses 1, 2, 3, 4

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| 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever. | 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness. |
|---|--|

3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

The Order of Service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship which is commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mark Tranvik
Assisting Minister, Lead Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik
Pianist, vocalist: Mark Trease
Vocalist, choir director: Keith Williams
Lector: Dawn Bailey
Acolyte: Earl Simons
Tech Director: Ryan Bailey
Ministers: The people of Cross of Glory