

THE GIFT OF GOD

**GOD GIVES SATISFACTION TO THOSE WHO
PATIENTLY WAIT**

Second Sunday after Christmas

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

January 5, 2025

SERIES THEME: THE GIFT OF GOD

When a father puts gifts under the Christmas tree, it is not to compensate his children for doing their chores. That would make whatever is inside that wrapping paper a wage, not a gift. A gift is given voluntarily simply so the giver can show favor to the one receiving the gift, without any expectation of repayment. In the season of Christmas, we receive the gift of God. That does not simply mean we receive the gifts God gives. When we look into the manger, we see that God is the gift. In the person of Jesus, God gave us himself. And because our God became true man and did everything necessary for our salvation, he is able to give us so many other Christmas gifts: forgiveness, hope, peace, a place in his family, eternal life in paradise. "That is too much!" you object. "I don't deserve any of it!" True enough. However, none of these things are wages. We could not and need not earn them. Because they are gifts, given by our gracious God to show us his favor.

THEME OF THE DAY: GOD GIVES SATISFACTION TO THOSE WHO PATIENTLY WAIT

It is always hard to wait, but particularly if what you are waiting for is extremely important. If you must wait an hour for the waiter to bring your food, it is not a huge deal. But if you need to wait a week for an electrician to restore power to your home, that is more painful. Waiting is harder when we badly need what we're waiting for. After the fall into sin, people of faith waited for God to provide the gift they needed most—a Savior. Century after century passed. "Where is he?" they wondered. People were powerless to save themselves from sin and death and hell. So, there was nothing to do but patiently wait. At the perfect time in history, the first Christmas occurred. The faithful rejoiced! This week, we see that God works on the timetable he knows to be best for us. We also see that those who wait for God to act are never disappointed. For God gives satisfaction to those who patiently wait.

Worship Leader
Organist/Pianist

Pastor Justin Wilkens
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Acknowledgments

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The Service, Setting Two (page 207 in Christian Worship 21)

Hymn: 329 All My Heart Again Rejoices

Stand

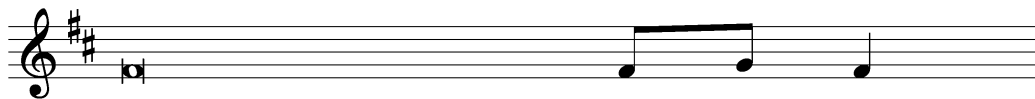
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Hasten to save me, O God;
O Lord, come quickly to help me.

Jesus Christ is Lord of all:
praise and thanks to God!

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

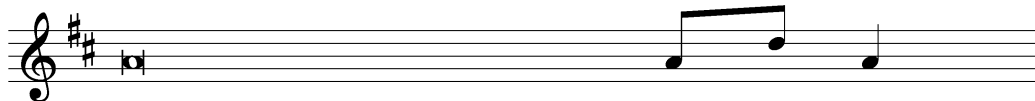
CW 208



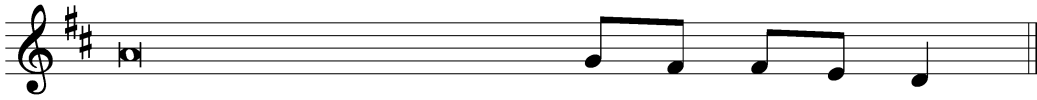
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|---|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | O come, let us sing | to | the | Lord, |
| 2 | For the Lord is a | great | _____ | God |
| 3 | The sea is his, for he | made | _____ | it, |



- | | | | |
|---|---|--------|---------------------|
| 1 | let us make a joyful noise to the rock of | our | sal - va - tion. |
| 2 | and a great | king | a - bove all gods. |
| 3 | and his hand | formed | the dry _____ land. |



- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|-------|-------|
| 1 | Let us come into his presence with thanks | - | giv | - | ing, |
| 2 | The deep places of the earth are | | in | his | hand; |
| 3 | O come, let us worship and | | bow | _____ | down, |
| 4 | For he | | is | our | God, |



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his _____ hand.

Be seated

First Reading

Genesis 17:1–7

Abram had waited for God to keep his promise to make Abram into the father of many nations.

The Covenant of Circumcision

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless. ²I will make my covenant between me and you, and I will make your descendants very numerous.”

³Abram fell on his face. God spoke with him. He said, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you. You will be the father of many nations. ⁵Your name will not be Abram anymore, but your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a large group of nations. ⁶I will make you extremely fruitful, and I will produce nations from you. Kings will come out of you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you as an everlasting covenant throughout their generations. I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 148A- In front of hymnal: Let All Praise the Name of the LORD

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4–7

The Old Testament believers waited for God to keep his promise to send a Savior. God kept his promise when the time had fully come. Those believers received the satisfaction of sonship.

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “Abba, Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 98:3



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Luke 1:68–79

The priest Zechariah sang a joyful song of praise because the Lord had kept his promise of salvation.

⁶⁸Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,

because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people.

⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets.

⁷¹He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,

⁷²in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath which he swore to Abraham our father,
⁷⁴to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies,
 so that we are able to serve him without fear,
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,
 because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸because of God's tender mercies,
 by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us,
⁷⁹to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

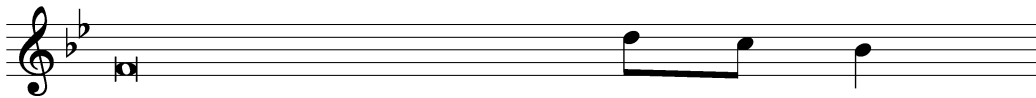
Hymn of the Day: 383 The Only Son from Heaven

Sermon

Stand

We Praise You, O God

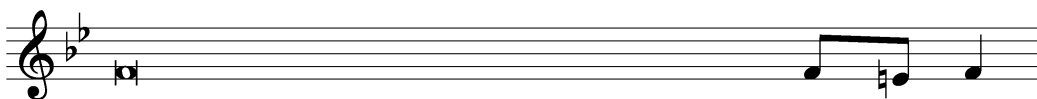
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|------------------------------------|--------|------|--------|
| 1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim | you | as | Lord; |
| 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of | heav'n | - ly | hosts, |
| 3 The white-robed army of martyrs | praise | — | you. |



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------|
| 1 all creation worships you, | Fa - ther | ev - er - last | - ing. |
| 2 heaven and earth are | full | — of your glo - ry. | |
| 3 Throughout the world the | ho - ly Church | ac - claims | you: |



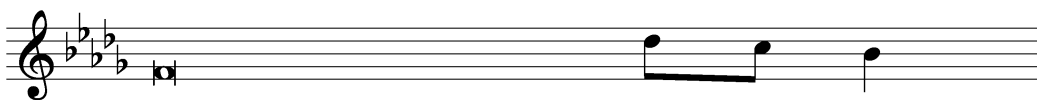
- 1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
2 The glorious company of apostles praise you.
3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



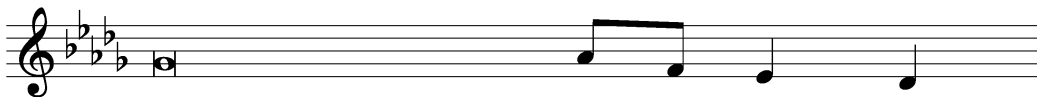
- 1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise you.
3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



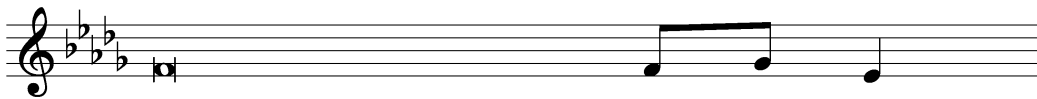
- 4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



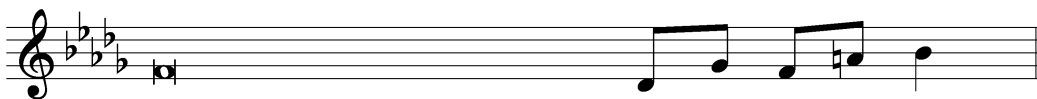
- 5 When you became man to set us free,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



- 5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



- 5 You overcame the sting of death
6 We believe that you will come



- 5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.

7 Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple,

7 bought with the price of your own blood,

7 and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Be seated

Offering

Offering Hymn: 954 Blessed Be the God of Israel

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The following prayer is said:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Hymn: 339 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship

Sunday: 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

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