

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

### Old Testament Reading: *Genesis 46:1–7*

So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes." Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

### Epistle: *1 Peter 4:12–19*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

### Holy Gospel: *Matthew 2:13–23*

When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

## ✠ ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

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### ✠ Jesus Is the Perfect Israel ✠

*Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Gen. 46:1–7). God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Matt. 2:13–23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my Son" (Hos. 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Pet. 4:12–19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ's sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.*

## Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, Year of Our ✠ Lord 2021

**COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Communion is offered today for those who: (1) repent of their sins, (2) believe in Jesus as their Savior, (3) believe that with the bread and the wine Christ gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, and (4) desire to amend their sinful ways with the help of the Holy Spirit. We also believe that Holy Communion is a fellowship meal with those of the same confession of faith: therefore, we ask that those **NOT** of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the American Association of Lutheran Churches, or Lutheran Church Canada **please speak with the Pastor before communing.**

**Introit** (*Sing to Tune C*)

**☩ Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because | of your foes,  
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in | all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the | heavens.**

**What is man that you are mind- | ful of him,  
and the son of man that you | care for him?**

**Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly |  
beings  
and crowned him with glory and | honor.**

**You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands;  
you have put all things under | his feet.**

**Glory be to the Father | and to the Son  
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established  
strength because | of your foes,  
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.**

### Prayers of the Church

**☩** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

**☩** O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have perfected Your praise. Silence the enemy and the avenger. Turn the hearts of all who, like Herod, would despise children or destroy the unborn for selfish gain. Show Your forgiveness to those who are penitent. Give Your comfort to all women who mourn the loss of infants, and fix our eyes on Christ, who for a time was spared, but has shed His blood for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**☩ Hear our prayer.**

**☩** Eternal Lord, Ruler of all, graciously regard those who have been set in positions of authority among us. Guide them by Your Spirit to be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution and unwavering in duty, that under them we may be governed quietly and peaceably. Lord, in Your mercy,

**☩ Hear our prayer.**

**☩** Gracious God, look with favor on all parents and guardians. At all times, let them see their children as undeserved gifts from Your hand. Strengthen them and all who bear the sign of the cross to be teachers and examples of the Christian faith to these and all children, and by the gracious leading of Your Holy Spirit fulfill what we are unable to do. Lord, in Your mercy,

**☩ Hear our prayer.**

**☩** Lord of hosts, graciously regard all for whom we pray *especially ....* Lord, in Your mercy,

**☩ Hear our prayer.**

**☩** O Lord God, heavenly Father, You allowed Your Son, Jesus Christ, to become a stranger and sojourner in Egypt for our sakes and led Him safely home to His fatherland. Mercifully grant that we poor sinners, who are strangers and sojourners in this perilous world, may soon be called home to our true fatherland, the kingdom of heaven, where we shall live in eternal joy and glory; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Divine Service

*Setting One*



#### Preparation

Pastor's Welcome  
Announcements  
Hymn of Invocation #392  
Invocation/Absolution p.151

#### Word

Introit *Bulletin*  
Kyrie/This is the Feast p.152  
Collect of the Day *Bulletin*  
Old Testament *Reverse*  
Epistle *Reverse*  
Alleluia P. 156  
Holy Gospel *Reverse*  
Hymn of the Day #385  
Sermon  
Apostles' Creed p.159  
Prayers *Bulletin*  
Offering (*In back of the Sanctuary*)  
Offertory #781 (v 1, 2)

#### Sacrament

Communion Announcement  
Preface p.160  
Distribution #361, #384  
#368, #386  
Thank the Lord p.164  
Departing Hymn #393