

Christmas 1

December 29, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas (Year C)

Fulfilling the command of the Lord first given to Moses on the wilderness journey to the Promised Land, Jesus’ parents presented their firstborn son in the temple at Jerusalem on the eighth day of his life. The prophets Simeon and Anna recognized the fulfillment of the covenant promise when they saw the child, and their witness is recounted for all generations following them: God’s redemption has arrived!



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15 **Set Apart the Firstborn**

As Israel was delivered out of slavery in Egypt, the Lord commanded Moses and the people to set apart for Him the firstborn son and dedicate him to the Lord’s service. By offering a sacrifice of a firstborn male animal, Israel remembered all that the Lord had done by redeeming them from Pharaoh’s bitter oppression.

Psalms 111 **The Lord Remembers His Covenant**

The psalmist sang joyfully of the Lord’s faithfulness. The Lord provides food and forever remembers his promises to those who fear him. The beginning of wisdom is trust and reverence in the Lord. His works are remembered for all generations.

Colossians 3:12–17 **Dress for the Christian Life**

St. Paul urged the Colossians to “put on” (clothe themselves with) the virtues of the Christian life: compassion, kindness, meekness and patience. They were called to practice forgiveness among each other, but most of all to love one another and foster true harmony within the community of faith.

Luke 2:22–40 **The Presentation of Jesus**

Jesus’ parents brought him to the temple to be presented to the Lord, as was the religious custom in first-century Judaism. They were met by an old man named Simeon who had waited for the Lord’s Messiah for many years. Simeon blessed the family and gave thanks to God that he might now depart in peace as the fulfillment of God’s Word having arrived right there in his presence.

Suggestions for the Day:

- The liturgical color is white.
- The Kyrie and Hymn of Praise may be used during Christmas.
- Use the Nicene Creed.
- Light all four candles on the Advent wreath as well as the Christ candle.
- We do not live this life of faith alone. Give thanks today for all the elders of the faith who have shown us the goodness of the Lord through their lives and witness, just like Simeon and Anna.

There are many versions of Simeon’s words put to song, “Let your servant go now in peace.” Type the title into YouTube to see the variety of hymnody centered around the Nunc Dimittis.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Angels From the Realms of Glory	50	---	367	275	126	126
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	60	---	380	270	106	106
Go, Tell it on the Mountain	70	---	388	290	---	web
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice	55	---	475	385	158	158
Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We	52	---	---	286	112	112
Our Father, By Whose Name	357	---	863	640	---	---
’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime	72	---	---	284	---	---
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	315	---	700	631	14	14
Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing	259	---	924	545	54	54
O Living Bread From Heaven	197	---	642	542	---	web

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
Let Our Gladness Have No End (CCLI # 4741855)
Jesus, Name Above All Names (CCLI #21291)
A Communion Hymn for Christmas (CCLI # 184970)
King of Kings (CCLI #7127647)
Name Above All Names (CCLI #4586759)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.