

Christmas 1

December 28, 2025

First Sunday after Christmas (Year A)

The capacity of the human race for darkness and evil is a reality we constantly face in this life. At times we are tempted to think that evil and darkness win. The message of Christmas still reminds us that the light of Christ cannot be extinguished. The birth of Christ does not change the reality of our human propensity for sin, but it offers us the hope and promise that God is present with us always.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-14**His Love Has Redeemed His People**

Isaiah spoke of God's love and mercy as that which was given in freely to the house of Israel. Even in distress and struggle, we, too, can testify that God's love prevails for us as his people, to save us from darkness and death. God's love carries his people and welcomes them back into relationship when they repent of their rebellion.

Psalm 111**Great Are the Works of the Lord**

Wonderful are his deeds, sang the psalmist who praised God for his grace and mercy toward the people. He provides for their every need and redeems them from their captors. His name is deserving of praise and honor forever.

Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7**In the Fullness of Time**

St. Paul proclaimed the good news of Jesus, the one who is God's son, born under the law to save those under the law. Through his saving power we are adopted as children of God — no longer slaves, but joint heirs with Christ of all that belongs to the Father.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23**Martyrdom of the Innocents**

King Herod enacted violence on innocent children 2 years old and younger as a plot to assassinate the Messiah. Mothers wailed in grief as their children were murdered by Herod's soldiers. Jesus' life was saved when his parents heeded a divine dream and fled to Egypt for safety.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

- * The liturgical color is white or gold.
- * Use the Nicene Creed.
- * Light the Christ candle.
- * As an alternate to Christmas 1, you may use the readings for "The Holy Name of Jesus." See the First Sunday after Christmas page of SOWeR for resources.
- * Talk with children about today being the start of a new year and how people often make New Year's resolutions. What is something they might add to their daily routine that will help them grow closer to Jesus? Examples might include prayer, study of God's word, helping someone in need, giving generously to others, or being thankful.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
When Jesus Had Been Born a King	---	---	---	---	---	web
Angels From the Realms of Glory	50	---	367	275	126	126
Cold December Flies Away	53	---	---	299	---	---
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	44	---	393	276	---	---
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	54	---	366	282	---	---
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms	---	780	---	774	208	208
Go Tell It on the Mountain	70	---	388	290	---	---
From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come	51	---	358	268	104	104
Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me	333	---	722	767	249	249
Here in This Place (Gather Us In)	---	718	---	532	---	---

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
 Shout to the Lord
 (CCLI # 1406918)
 Your Name
 (CCLI# 4611679)
 Christmas Offering
 (CCLI# 7005509)
 Born is the King
 (CCLI# 6089302)
 Love Has Come
 (CCLI# 2060820)

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