

Christmas 1

December 27, 2026

First Sunday after Christmas (Year B)

St. Paul reminds us that Jesus was born under the law of Moses and his parents did their religious duty to fulfill the covenant law when they took him to the Temple after his birth. This law, however, is not what saves humanity from sin and death; instead it is the lifesaving sacrifice that is prefigured here in the Temple ritual. Salvation came to the house of Israel, and it was witnessed by two elderly saints.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Anointed to Bring Good News

The Spirit of the Lord anointed the prophet to bring good news to Israel, especially to the poor and brokenhearted: That which had laid in ruins for so long would be restored. The ashes would be replaced by a beautiful headdress and shame replaced with salvation. What was dead and lifeless would be a fertile garden.

Psalm 111

God's Wondrous Works

The psalmist sang of the greatness of the Lord, who remembered his people with mercy and an everlasting covenant. This one who was trustworthy and true would grant an abundant inheritance to his people. The beginning of wisdom is awe and wonder of the Lord God.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

The Fullness of God's Time

St. Paul wrote to the Galatians, reminding them that in God's perfect time he sent his Son to redeem all those who were under the law. This adoption made believers, then and now, daughters and sons. We are heirs of God through Christ, our Lord.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

According to the law of Moses, the infant Jesus had to be presented in the Temple for circumcision on the eighth day of his life. A sacrifice was to be offered there as a thanksgiving for the child. While at the Temple, Mary and Joseph met Simeon, an old man who had waited for the Lord's Messiah to appear, and an old prophetess, Anna, who had prayed and fasted daily, waiting for the redemption of Israel.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White
- Use the Nicene Creed.
- Light the Christ Candle.
- Consider using an alternative liturgy, "Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas," which can be found on the Christmas Seasonal Page of SOWER. This is particularly suitable for use when laity lead worship in the absence of a pastor.

The first hymn in the hymn list is an original by Pastor Mark Ryman. It is set to the tune of Sankey (you may know it as the hymn "Faith is the Victory"). The meter is 8686D. For a PDF of the score go to:

<https://hymnary.org/media/fetch/146523>

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
In His Temple Now Behold Him	184	---	519	417	---	---
Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We	52	---	---	286	112	112
Now, Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace	---	624	---	200	---	---
What Child is This?	40	---	370	296	113	113
When Christmas Morn is Dawning	59	---	---	---	109	109
In the Bleak Midwinter	---	---	---	294	124	124
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	58	---	359	272	116	116
When Jesus Had Been Born a King	---	---	---	---	---	web

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS=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

My Soul Magnifies the Lord
(CCLI# 5601671)
A Christmas Alleluia
(CCLI# 7050431)
Peace Has Come
(CCLI# 7030036)
We Have a Savior
(CCLI# 6336811)
He Shall Reign Forevermore
(CCLI# 7050416)

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