

New Year / Circumcision and Name of Jesus

A Time for Beginnings

Saturday, December 31, 2011

Sunday, January 1, 2012



Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

225 Center Street, New Milford, NJ 07646 --- (201) 262-0466

smelnewmilford.org

Theme for Our Service:

A Time for Beginnings

The occurrence of an appointed Festival of the Church Year on a Sunday provides the congregation a unique opportunity to reflect thoroughly on the meaning of the day as it shapes their life of faith. The two traditions of the day converge- the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus and New Year's Day. These two combine in a complimentary way, inspiring the theme, "A Time for Beginnings." The infant Jesus begins the suffering that will be a continuing part of His life and saving ministry as He undergoes circumcision according to the Law. The New Year begins with the assurance that we will be embraced continuously by His abiding presence, grace, and forgiveness. It is a time to "rejoice the old---and embrace the new."

Our Worship Service This Week:

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service

Words of Welcome

At this time, Pastor Iovine will outline some parish news and information. For further information on these announcements, please look in the "Saint Matthew's Matters" insert in your bulletin AND on our church's website, www.smelcnewmilford.org and click the "Saint Matthew's Matters" under the "About Us" tab.

Prelude - Pre-Service Prayer & Meditation

"The Old Year Has Passed Away," arr. Wilbur Held (Saturday)

"Blessed Be the Name," arr. John Innes (Sunday)

↑ Opening Hymn

"All People That On Earth Do Dwell," Lutheran Worship Hymn #435

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth-tell; Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk, he doth us feed, And for his sheep he doth us take.

Oh, enter then his gates with praise; Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always, For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good: His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

Text: William Kethe, d. C. 1593
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-c.1561

Invocation and Opening Sentences

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing the New Year

P: Let us pray. Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe. All time and space is Yours. From everlasting to everlasting You are God. A thousand years in Your sight are but a moment when it is past and Your kingdom endures forever. As Your people gather in Your presence, we commend to Your gracious love the new year now beginning. Grant that in the coming weeks and months all that we do may bring honor to Your name. Blessed Lord, if it is in Your divine plan to return in Your power during the coming year, we ask that You take us to be with You in Your glory, through the merits of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, in whose name we make all of our beginnings.

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In this time of beginnings, let us confess our sins that we may find peace of heart and mind in God's gracious forgiveness.

C: **Forgive us, O Lord, for our sins and our sinfulness. We repent of all that has been done in the past that has transgressed Your Law. We repent of all of our offenses and ask for Your mercy and forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ. Grant that we may amend our sinful lives and begin this new year of grace with hope and joy.**

P: God has promised to hear us when we call to Him and in His great goodness responds to our petitions. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and in His stead, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

New Year Hymn

"Now Let Us Come Before Him," Lutheran Worship Hymn #184

Now let us come before him, With son and prayer adore him
Who for our life have given The strength we need from heaven.

The storms in battle clashing, The hooves of thunder crashing,
True mothers guard the slumber Of children without number.

So when events are fright'ning And slash like lurid lightning,
God hides us in embraces To shield his children's faces.

God helps all those forsaken When to their plight they waken,
Our counselor, our treasure, Our friend in pain or pleasure.

Lord, show your tender feeling; For sickness give your healing;
To minds, when dark thoughts frighten, Come with your joy, bring light in.

Above all else, Lord, send us Your Spirit to attend us,
His peace in us abiding, Our footsteps heav'nward guiding.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. F. Samuel Janzow, b. 1913

Tune: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

↓ Old Testament Reading

Numbers 6:22-27

(Moses blessed the people of God.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the New Year and the Circumcision and the Naming of our Lord is taken from Numbers, Chapter 6:

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Galatians 3:23-29

(We are heirs of God's promise in Christ Jesus.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from Galatians, Chapter 3:

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

↑ Holy Gospel Sequence

Luke 2

(Jesus is circumcised and given His name.)

P: Hear now the Holy Gospel including today's appointed reading from St. Luke, the second chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. *Luke 2:21*

C: God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:9-11*

P: And the angel said: "She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." *Matthew 1:21, adapted*

C: Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit said, . . ."there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." *Acts 4: 8, 12, adapted*

P: And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he

would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Creed

Nicene Creed

**A: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

↓ Hymn of the Day

“Jesus, Name of Wondrous Love,” Lutheran Worship hymn #182

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev’ry knee Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen sons of earth
For the promise that it gave, “Jesus shall his people save.”

Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe First he tasted here below.

Jesus! Only name that’s given Under all the mighty heaven
Whereby man, to sin enslaved, Bursts his fetters and is saved.

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above;
Pleasing your redemption true, We flee, helpless, Lord, to you.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.

Tune: J.A. Freylinghausen, Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1704

Sermon

↓ Offering

Voluntary

“Our God , Our Help in Ages Past,” Arr. J.E. Newell (Saturday)

“At the Name of Jesus,” arr. David Johnson (Sunday)

↑ Prayer of the Church

Our weekly prayers are responsive in nature. At the end of each petition, "Lord, in Your mercy," is spoken, to which the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."

P As we mark the passage of time, recall the past, and look ahead to the future, let us pray for the Church, that she remain faithful to Christ amidst many temptations, changes, and troubles.

E Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. As we give thanks for the blessings of the past year and look forward to a new year, help us, amidst all of our joys and sorrows, to cling to Your sure and certain Word, to remain steadfast in our Baptismal identity as Your children who bear Your name, and to welcome the forgiveness of our sins in Holy Communion. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Save and defend Your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ, which was shed on the cross but first shed at His circumcision. Strengthen Your faithful people through the Word and the holy Sacraments, especially those in the faith who have faced incredible hardship following attacks by Muslim extremists. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

E In Your mercy, strengthen newly-established congregations, and support them in challenging times, asking this morning for the blessings of the house churches established here in New Jersey by our district in North Bergen. By Your Gospel, make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord, and by that same Gospel refresh and renew the witness of Your people everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of all power and might, remember all those entrusted with positions of public service, especially those who will be installed into governmental positions in New Milford and our surrounding communities. Protect them against corruption, and enable them faithfully to discharge their duties for the common good. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

E Bless the schools of the Church and all colleges, universities, and centers of research and those who teach and work in them. Grant Your wisdom in such

- measure that people may serve You honorably in church and state, and that our common life may be conformed to the ways of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- P Sanctify our homes with Your presence and bless them with joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism, and enable parents to bring their children up in lives of faith and devotion. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- E By Your Word and Holy Spirit, comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity *remembering those in our church prayer list*. Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- P We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- E All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.
C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, whose love daily attends us and who blesses us in countless ways. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may worthily receive the bread and wine, that is the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of the full salvation He has won for us. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. Unite us with all who gather at Your table here with those who now feast at Your eternal table in the courts of heaven. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sanctus

[Tune: Nicaea - from LW Hymn 168]

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
Day and night we join to praise Your love and majesty.
You alone are holy, worthy and righteous.
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
We rejoice to join the hymns of earth and sky and sea.
Generations praise You, with saints and angels.
Holy and blessed through eternity.**

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Tune: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823-76

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

P: We give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We bless You for His birth among us and thank You for Your measureless grace. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith, and above all firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. Lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Matthew 26: 26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

A: 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.

Sharing of the Peace

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei

[Tune: Olivet - from LW Hymn 378]

**O Lamb of God, we pray:
Take all our sins away -
Our faith increase.
Have mercy on us all,
Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call
And grant us peace.**

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Tune: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

↓ Communion Distribution

"Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year," arr. Richard Wienhorst (Saturday)
"Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sin," arr. Austin Lovelace (Sunday)

The Lord's Supper will be distributed from the floor of the sanctuary this morning.

↑ Post-Communion Collect

E: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Bless us throughout the days of this new year now begun and keep us firm in the true faith throughout all of our years so that, on the day of our Lord's returning, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Go out into the world in peace. Seek to do that which is good and gives glory to God in all things. The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, abide with you always.

Closing Hymn

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past," Lutheran Worship hymnal #180

Our God, Our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received its frame,

From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream, Dies at the op'ning day.

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: William Croft, 1678-1727

Musical Benediction

“O Christ the Same,” Timothy Dudley-Smith (Saturday)

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds,” arr. A.R. Reinagle (Sunday)

Dismissal

Postlude

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name,” arr. Heinrich Fleischer (Sunday)

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