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PRAISE ABLAZE

JANUARY 5, 2025 • 11:00 AM

OVERCOMING LIFE'S SORROWS THROUGH GRACE

Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened through the study of God's Word and empowered to live as His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; a small area is set up in the atrium for children with "wiggles"; and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the rear parking lot entrance to your left as you exit the atrium doors of the Multi-Ministry Center (MMC). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the *Guest* side of the *Welcome Card* found in the pews/chair backs and place it in the offering baskets.

As We Gather: "One of the problems in our Christian life is that we begin with a relationship, then revert to rules. We reduce the joy of a relationship to routine and dull regimen. How do we begin the Christian life? By grace. How do we continue the Christian life? By grace. God gives saving grace. God gives strengthening grace. ... Christ says, "By grace you're saved. By grace you're strengthened. And My grace is always sufficient." (*Overcoming Life's Sorrows – Learning From Jeremiah,* R. Reed Lessing, Concordia Publishing House, 2021, pg. 154)

A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen today...

Pastor	Rev. Jason Hoerth	Reader	Marla St. Martin
Children's Message	Chris Graves DCE	Elder	Dan Hamilton
Cont. Worship Ldr.	Dyann Cooper	Acolyte.....	Rylie Wiedeman
		Tech	Matt Blankenship

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Opening Worship

*House of the Lord
Starry Night*

Call to Worship

Opening Sentences

The Sacrament of Baptism

Henry William Hinrichsen

Children's Message

God's Word *(see opposite or screens)*

*Jeremiah 20:7-13
Ephesians 1:3-14
Luke 2:40-52*

(Children excused for Children's Church.)

Offering *(Thanks for your support of God's mission here.)*

Today's Message

(Children return from Children's Church.)

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Blessing/ Song

He Shall Reign Forevermore

Dismissal

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 20:7-13

(Jeremiah's words from the depth of persecution.)

⁷ O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. ⁸ For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰ For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him." ¹¹ But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹² O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. ¹³ Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3-14

(God invites us into celebration through the lavish gift-giving of His Son.)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might

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EPISTLE (cont.)

be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40–52

(The boy Jesus at Passover in the Jerusalem temple)

⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.



Acknowledgments

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