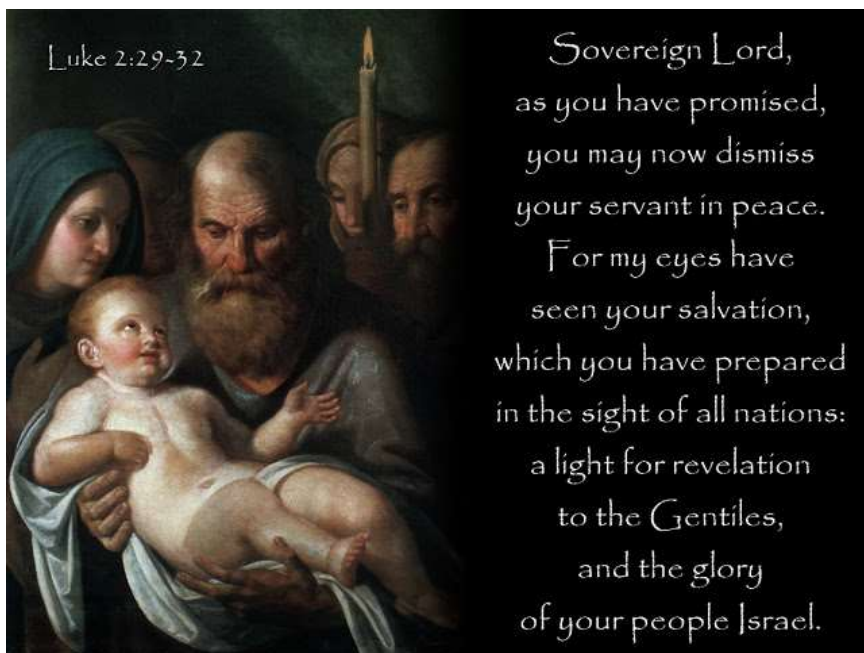


The First Sunday after Christmas

December 27th 2020



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

901 Cornwall Crescent

Dawson Creek, BC

AS WE GATHER

The Epistle for the First Sunday after Christmas brings a one-sentence summary of the Christmas message as Paul writes it to the Christians of Galatia. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4). God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth, this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. In the days after Christmas, we have the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Christmas message. We have received the greatest of all gifts. Through Jesus Christ, we are heirs of God and have an eternal inheritance!

Announcements

Upcoming services

Sunday Jan 3rd 11:00 am Live Streamed Service

The links to all services will be posted on our web site:
www.stpaulsdawsoncreek.com

All in person worship services are now suspended until Jan 8th, in accordance with the latest BC Public Health Order. I pray that after Jan 8th we will be able to have in person worship, but we will just have to wait and see if there will be any changes to the current orders or not.

Pastor is taking some time to rest and will not be observing office hours this week.

I pray that you have a week of peace and rest, knowing that no matter what is happening in the world our eternal health is safe in promises of Christ.

Go in peace, serve the Lord for our sins are forgiven in Christ!

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

The **Nunc Dimittis** is often the post-communion canticle: “Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace.” At first glance it appears that we’re taking the words of Simeon completely out of context. After all, what does his experience have to do with ours?

How can Holy Communion ever compare to Simeon’s unique honor of holding the infant Jesus in his arms during the child’s first visit to the temple at the tender age of 40 days (Luke 2:25-38)?

Of course, we would love to have been in the temple and shared in the experience with Simeon. For that matter, we would give anything to have been the first — along with the shepherds — to see the infant Jesus, or to have been with the Magi as they offered their gifts to him.

But, as Luther so insightfully taught, we don’t find Christ in those places. Through the events of his incarnation, birth, crucifixion, and resurrection our Lord has accomplished our salvation.

But the benefits of his saving work — forgiveness, life, and salvation — are distributed to us through his means of grace, his Word and Sacraments. We can’t go back to stand with Simeon in the temple. The good news is that we don’t have to.

So when, following our reception of the Lord’s Supper, we sing Simeon’s ancient song of faith — “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace” — nothing could be more appropriate. Indeed, our eyes have seen his salvation. Better yet, we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good (Ps. 34:8).

So, what could be better than holding the infant Jesus in our arms? How about eating and drinking his body and blood given for the forgiveness of our sins? This truly is heaven on earth, because here we have Jesus and all his benefits.