

Sunday, January 1, 2022 – Name of Jesus (Christmas 1)

www.GloriaDeiWinnipeg.org

Introduction

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

Prayer of the Day

Creator of all, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

God commanded Aaron to say these words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with God’s name and God’s blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into the world.

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Psalm 8

¹O | LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;**

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,**

human beings that you should | care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them little less | than divine;
with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

**⁶You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;
you have put all things un- | der their feet:**

⁷all | flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts | of the field,

**⁸the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.**

⁹O | LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Prayers of Intercession

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, saying “Hear us, O God,” and responding, “your mercy is great.”

A brief silence.

Guide your church to confess that Jesus is Lord. Fill us with wonder at the good and saving news of Jesus. May we treasure your words and meditate upon them, that we reveal your glory to the world with humility and hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your name, O God, is majestic in all the earth. You set the moon and stars in their courses. You are mindful of every work of your hand: flocks and cattle, birds and fish, seas and fields. Make us wise stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless the nations with your grace and peace. Inspire and uphold treaties, cease-fires, and international agreements that seek to calm strife between nations. Shield all those who work to protect vulnerable populations from exploitation or danger. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We cry, “Abba! Father!” as we seek your loving care in times of need. Heal those wounded by hurtful words. Console all who are weighed down by depression and anxiety. Call by name any who feel unloved, misunderstood, or rejected. Heal the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal yourself to us in the fullness of time, O God. Give us gratitude for what has been and hope for what is to come. Grace us with your presence during transitions: new jobs or schools, new homes, new diagnoses, or new relationships. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember all the saints who proclaimed the name of Jesus in life and who now rest in glory. Show us our inheritance as adopted heirs of eternal life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

A reflection for Name of Jesus...

What's in a Name?

All names are powerful, but Jesus' name is the most powerful of all. We use names as a concise way to convey complex meanings: being able to call someone by name means you know something important about that person, and being called by name means you are known. On this day we celebrate the privilege and the power of calling God by name, as well as how deeply we know God and are known by God, through Jesus.

Our texts for today affirm the power of the name we're given at baptism: child of God. The name of God is described in active terms: being blessed and claimed in the name of God *does* something to us. It ennobles and empowers us in ways we do not deserve and did nothing to earn (Ps. 8, Num. 6:27). The name of Jesus itself is described as being a powerful actor in our world and in our lives: "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11).

Our gospel reading from Luke finds the holy family in the midst of the ongoing extraordinary events of Jesus' birth. When the shepherds leave and the angels return to heaven, we can see a shift toward the ordinary. Luke records that Mary and Joseph made sure that Jesus went through the usual rites of passage for a Jewish boy; years pass between these milestones, unrecorded. But in his ordinary, everyday life, Jesus carried an extraordinary name. We carry the name of Jesus and the mark of his cross not only in extraordinary times, but in our ordinary, everyday lives. It's a name that is active and powerful in us and through us each day.

(www.SundaysAndSeasons.com)



Gloria Dei
LUTHERAN CHURCH