

keeps His promises to those who are still living in darkness and have rejected the fulfillment of God's promises of deliverance and forgiveness. It is also a message of comfort in that those; who by grace, through faith in the promised Christ, have been declared righteous, can rejoice in the God who also keeps His promises. God kept all His promises about the Christ. Thus, Simeon was able to prophesy that this child was destined to cause the rising and falling of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is spoken against.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O God our Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with You and men. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sake but for the glory of God and the welfare of their neighbors. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your Holy angels charge over them.

O Father most loving, grant that we who are under the power of sin, may in Christ be redeemed and regenerated both in body and soul, and that we may always be Your obedient servants. Empower us by Your Spirit to perform the works necessary for repentance, and in faith do Your will with a glad heart and a pure mind.

Establish the reign of the Prince of Peace over the nations of the Earth. Visit with Your mercies Your whole creation and every commonwealth of people, and, that all may be saved and none lost, bring them to the obedience of that Holy Child Whom You sent for the redemption of all mankind, even Your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. Let the light of His life: His word, doctrine, and creed; His miracles, signs and wonder; His birth, ministry and character; His Passion, death and Resurrection, be that light of divine truth which will show the way to all.

For our sick, our wounded, our hurt, our troubled, our fallen, and our absent fellow believers we pray. Grant them whatever they may need: soundness of body, strength of faith and grant them all in Christ assurance of salvation.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

Hear us, O Father, direct and govern our hearts, and bring us to eternal life, for we establish our faith in our brother Jesus Christ.

© Amen.

CHRISTMAS ONE

Chant Tone



Introit

The Lord has bared His holy arm
before the eyes of all the —nations,*
and all the ends of the Earth shall
see the salvation | of our God.

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He
has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and His holy arm
have worked salva | tion for Him.

The Lord has made known His
sal —vation;*

He has revealed His righteousness
in the sight of the —nations.

He has remembered His steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

All the ends of the Earth have seen
the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the
Earth;*

break forth into joyous song and
sing — praises!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy —Spirit;
as it was in the be —ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

The Lord has bared His holy arm
before the eyes of all the —nations,*
and all the ends of the Earth shall
see the salvation | of our God.

(Antiphon, Isaiah 52:10;
Psalm 98:1-4)

Collect of the Day

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is — given;*
and the government shall be upon His — shoulder,
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,*
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.
Oh sing to the Lord a — new song,*
for He has done | marvelous things!

(Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: We give thanks to You, O Lord, for having sent redemption to Your people. We praise You for keeping Your Old Testament covenant established with our forefathers and proclaimed by Your prophets. We give thanks to You with our whole heart and praise You for sending us salvation in the Babe of Bethlehem. We kneel before His manger, for in it You have revealed Your honor and majesty. Grant us strength and courage to acknowledge Jesus, increase our faith and bless our witness that it may bring others to the Light of their salvation. This we ask in the name of and for the sake of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS VERY SHORT. At most there are two Sundays between Christmas Day and Epiphany (January 6.) We sing the Christmas Hymns that the world has been singing all of Advent. The "Twelve Days of Christmas" began December 26 and run through January 6, yet the world is already taking down their "Christmas" decorations and the stores are getting ready for New Years Eve. If that was the only thing the world got wrong about the season everything would be fine. It is not. The world still has a deep need to know the truth about the first advent of our Savior as the babe in Bethlehem and they have a serious need to know Him as their personal Savior because of His impending second advent.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Jesus Fulfills the Whole Law

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Isaiah 52:10;) Psalm 98:1-4

In Isaiah 52:10 God describes the salvation that will come to all people. God makes a point to promise that even as we see death and destruction all around us, He is in control and will (did) send His (Son to bring) salvation. Psalm 98 agrees in content to Psalms 92, 95 and 96. Psalm 92 states that it was written, "For the Sabbath," which means it was most likely written by the Sons of Korah, but, as they are written in a similar style to David's Psalm, some attribute all of them to him. We enter into worship in the wonder of the birth of Christ our Savior.

COLLECT

We acknowledge our desire to be one with God in all things. We especially want the work of Christ to be alive in our hearts. We pray that God would therefore, let us find true life in His work, and bring us to eternal life.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

This is the explanation of what law Mary and Joseph were fulfilling in Verse 23 of our Gospel Lesson. This is however, a new addition to our latest round of liturgical revision. (Just for your curiosity, the price of the sacrifice; "a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons," comes from Leviticus 15:14. We never read from Leviticus in our worship.) We have between this and the Gospel lessons a comment on the manner in which the Christ would take on the sins of the world and pay the price for them. Jesus wasn't just any first born Son, Jesus shouldn't have had to pay a price of redemption to God for His birth, He is God. He took on our flesh which required Him to play by all our rules.

GRADUAL—Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 98:1a

Isaiah 9:6 is a statement of victory. God won a victory in the Birth of the Savior. Psalm 98 is a prophecy of the Messiah. We use the first half of verse 1 to express our wonder over the birth of God in human flesh.

EPISTLE LESSON—Colossians 3:12-17

In the Christmas season there is a strong exhortation to live a life of sanctification. To live a life rightly displayed in the grace of God. Our text is a direction for the redeemed, who have the knowledge, these are the directions for the redeemed nation mentioned in Isaiah. We are not to be carried away by the unruly nations of the world. Instead we are to shine forth as one whom God has set His Love.

GOSPEL—Luke 2:22-40

This is the historic lesson for this day in the church calendar (so much so that we use it in both "B" and "C".) We have a message of God Who