

*make the unapproachable God known to us; he came to make the unseen God seen.*

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’” <sup>16</sup> From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

**Sermon Hymn:** 34 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

**Sermon:** One Thing Needful

**Offering:** *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

**Distribution Hymn:** 752 In Christ Alone

**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn:** 334 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Ushers:** This Week – Jim Lichtenberg & Jeremy Wagie  
Next Week – Zach Walsh & Mike Walsh

**Greeters:** This Week – Paul & Vicki Milbrath  
Next Week – Larry & Patti Zastrow

**Cleaning:** This Coming Week – Please Volunteer to Help  
The Following Week – Please Volunteer to Help  
(There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church.)

**Christmas 2 – January 4 & 5**

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*Principal: Craig Winkler* School Tel: 262-582-3010

*Organist: Judy Acker*

# We Welcome You!

**Order of Worship:** Pg. 15

**Opening Hymn:** 238 Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

## **Prayer of the Day:**

**M:** Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **First Lesson - Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3**

*Paul prays that the Ephesians might know God better. There is only one way for us to better see and know the unseen God: the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, must tell us. The way to know God better is to see exactly what he has done for us (vv. 3-6) and what he will yet do for us (vv. 13-14). The wisdom that comes from the revelation of the Gospel enlightens the eyes of believing hearts (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:6) and lets them see and know the hope to which they have been called. This hope is certain because God's people already have the deposit (v. 14), and the promise was made by their adoptive Father (v. 5).*

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

**62** For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. <sup>2</sup> The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. <sup>3</sup> You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Psalm of the Day - Psalm 148, p. 121**

## **Second Lesson - Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18**

*The Messiah promises that the righteousness and glory of the unseen God will be made known to all nations. Then God speaks (62:1ff.) and shows the surprising way he will reveal his glory and righteousness: they will be seen in his people. No longer will they be called Desolate and Deserted. God speaks and makes our righteousness shine like the dawn, our salvation like a blazing torch. As a king's crown shows his power, so the righteousness of his people makes known the glory of the unseen God.*

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

**Verse of the Day:** *Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia. (Psalm 98:3b)*

## **Gospel - John 1:14-18**

*John 1:14 Occurs in the Gospel for Christmas Day and for Christmas 2. The worship planner will note each Sunday's distinctly different emphasis. The point of Christmas Day is that God became flesh. The emphasis on Christmas 2 is that the Incarnation reveals the unseen God to us. The sin-darkened eyes of mankind can not see God in his glory; he must remain hidden in unapproachable light. God, however, wanted us to know him—to see him—and so God chose to reveal himself by hiding himself in flesh and blood. This is the great mystery of the Incarnation: Christ is the exegesis of God (ἐκεῖνος ἐξηγήσατο). Jesus Christ—himself God the one and Only, μονογενῆς θεός—came to*