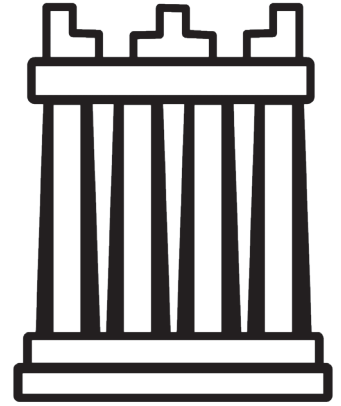


Christmas 2

January 5, 2025

Second Sunday after Christmas (Year C)

The topic of wisdom is a thread that runs through today's readings. The wisdom of the world is not the same as the wisdom of God, and the reality is that it takes knowing God's Word to grasp the difference. Too often we rely on our own "wisdom" which is actually foolishness. God's wisdom is a gift that is granted to us through faith and in obedience to our Lord who is the very source of what is wise.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15**Solomon Asks God for Wisdom**

The young king, Solomon, asked God for wisdom and understanding as he assumed the throne of his father, David. He asked for discernment between good and evil so that he might rule according to God's will. God not only granted his request, but also gave him what he didn't ask for – wealth and honor.

Psalms 119:97-104**The Psalmist is Wiser than His Enemies**

The psalmist confessed that there's a deeper understanding and wisdom that comes from following the precepts of the Lord. He meditates on God's law, day and night which brings him joy and peace. There are none among his enemies who are wiser than he, for they do not know the Lord and His ways.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**Every Spiritual Blessing**

We, like Paul's audience in Ephesus, were chosen before the foundations of the world and adopted as God's children through the person and work of Jesus Christ. This is God's desire for us, his beloved people, that we would bask in our redemption through Christ and live fully in praise of his glory.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:40-52**Young Jesus in the Temple**

Jesus' family visited the Jerusalem Temple at Passover and failed to realize that he was not with them as they made their journey back home. Three days later they returned for him and found him sitting at the feet of the teachers. All were amazed by the young boy, who already testified to his identity as the Father's Son.

Suggestions for the Day:

- The liturgical color is white.
- The Kyrie and Hymn of Praise may be used during Christmas.
- Use the Nicene Creed.
- Light all four candles on the Advent wreath as well as the Christ candle.
- For an alternate liturgy for this Sunday use the Feast of the Epiphany.
- Encourage disciples in the New Year to begin a Bible Reading Plan. There is a downloadable PDF of a yearly plan on the Christmas page of SOWeR.
- What would it mean for the life of the congregation if together you repeatedly prayed for wisdom? Just imagine what God might do in your midst! Put Him to the test and pray for his wisdom.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
The First Noel	56	---	---	300	121	121
Of The Father's Love Begotten	42	---	384	295	120	120
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	58	---	359	272	116	116
O One with God the Father	77	---	---	---	---	web
O Word of God Incarnate	231	---	523	514	---	web
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness	---	---	849	843	---	---
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
O Love, How Deep	88	---	544	322	---	---
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	526	---	802	834	40	40
Sent Forth By God's Blessing	221	---	643	547	58	58

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

- Goodness of God
(CCLI# 7117726)
- Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)
(CCLI# 7163734)
- 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
(CCLI# 22609)
- He Knows My Name
(CCLI# 2151368)
- Open the Eyes of My Heart
(CCLI# 2298355)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.