


# OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 31, 2023



SINCE YOU  
ARE HIS CHILD,

God has  
made you  
also an heir.

GALATIANS 4:7, NIV

# **OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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## **OUR MISSION**

“The Our Redeemer church family exists to **welcome** people to faith;  
help people **grow** in the faith that works in real life;  
and **serve** our community and the world together in **Jesus’** name.”

## **GUESTS AND MEMBERS – WELCOME TO OUR REDEEMER**

We’re happy that you’ve joined us in worship, especially if you are a visitor with us.  
We pray that the Lord who led you here would lead you into a time of knowing Him better,  
trusting in Him more, and growing deeper in His love as He places His Word  
and cross before your eyes, ears, and hearts.

We like to know you worshiped with us today. Please sign the Friendship Pad located on  
the aisle side of the pew and pass it along to others in the pew.

## **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, HYMNALS & LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE**

Please see an usher for assistance with these items.

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

## DIVINE SERVICE SETTING IV

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

LSB 389 v.1-5



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -  
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our  
5 He is a ser - vant, I a lord: How great a



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The  
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His  
mys - ter - y! How strong the ten - der Christ Child's love! No



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.  
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.  
tru - er friend than He, No tru - er friend than He.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 203

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

PSALM

*Psalm 111*

P: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**C: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

P: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**C: He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

P: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

**C: He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

P: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

**C: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

P: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

**C: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

LSB 205

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray. 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.

**C:** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (Pew Bible pg. 621)

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4-7 (Pew Bible pg. 974)

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 205

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:22-40 (Pew Bible pg. 857)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 207

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## SERMON HYMN

**“In His Temple Now Behold Him”**

LSB 519

*Sung to the tune of “Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”*

- 1 In His temple now behold Him, See the long-expected Lord;  
Ancient prophets had foretold Him, God has now fulfilled His word.  
Now to praise Him, His redeemed, Shall break forth with one accord.**
- 2 In the arms of her who bore Him, Virgin pure, behold Him lie  
While His aged saints adore Him, Ere in perfect faith they die.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Lo, the incarnate God Most High!**
- 3 Jesus, by Your presentation, When they blessed You, weak and poor,  
Make us see Your great salvation, Seal us with Your promise sure;  
And present us in Your glory, To Your Father, cleansed and pure.**

## SERMON

**“Children and Heirs, Make Yourself at Home”**

Galatians 4:4-7

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

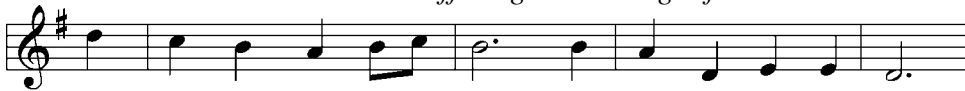
*Tithes and offerings are collected in the offering box in the Narthex and brought forward during Offertory. If you have a tithe or offering to share, you may still place it in the offering box following worship.*



## OFFERTORY

## “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LSB 781 (v. 1-2)

*Please stand as the offerings are brought forward.*

1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;  
 2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
 And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 209

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

## “Thou Who Roll’st the Year Around”

TLH 111

*Sung to the tune of “Jesus, Savior, Come to Me” TLH 356*

1 **Thou Who roll’st the year around,  
 Crowned with mercies large and free,  
 Rich Thy gifts to us abound;  
 Warm our praise shall rise to Thee.**

2 **Kindly to our worship bow,  
 While our grateful thanks we tell,  
 That, sustained by Thee, we now,  
 Bid the parting year farewell.**

*Serving Us Today*

**Guest Pastor** - Rev. Thomas Wirsing

**Organist** - Nancy Fuemmeler

**Elder**                      Danny Kiedaisch                      (309-212-0504)  
**Reader**                     Jen Wright  
**Ushers**                     Bob McCuen (Lead) and Mike Hathaway

*Altar Flowers*

*The flowers on the altar are sponsored by John and Jeanne Ohler  
in celebration of their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.*

**Acknowledgments**

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*Happy  
New  
Year!*

The text "Happy New Year!" is written in a black, elegant cursive script. The word "Happy" is on the top line, "New" is on the middle line, and "Year!" is on the bottom line. The text is centered and surrounded by a circular pattern of small black dots and squares, creating a festive, starburst-like effect.