

Printed Cover

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Gloria in Excelsis Deo”
By Mark Hayes

PIANO SOLO

WELCOME

P: Pastor C: Congregation

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

P: In the still of the night, when all was dark and silent,

C: The Light of the world was born in Bethlehem.

P: To us a Child is born!

C: To us a Son is given!

P: The government will rest on His shoulders and He will be called...

C: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

OPENING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379 v. 1–3

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him, Born the king of angels:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God In the highest:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

CONFESSION

Based on Psalm 110 and 1 John 4

P: The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.

C: Rule in the midst of your enemies!

P: Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments;

C: From the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

P: We have failed to love one another and abide in You.

C: We need Your mercy for our sins. Bring us back to Your light.

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

HYMN OF CONFESSION

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361 v. 4

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

ABSOLUTION

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

P: O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-14 (Pew Bible pg. 572)

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

1 John 4:7-16 (Pew Bible pg. 1023)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ADULT CHOIR

“For To Us a Child is Born”

By John Purifoy

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible pg. 807)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

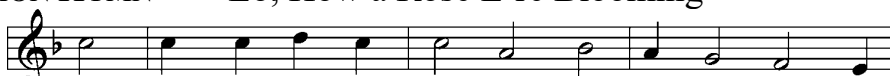
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



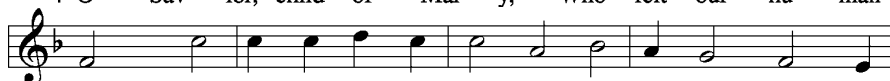
LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CHRISTMAS CONFSSION OF FAITH

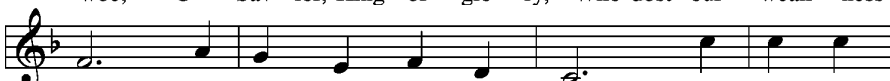
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, and adored by the wise men; who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and by whose work in my heart I am led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love and live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.



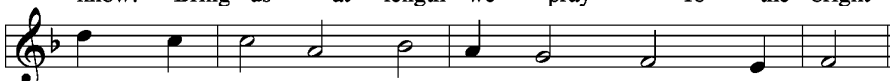
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

SERMON

“Baby Blue and Royal Purple”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: The virgin has conceived and born a Son, Emmanuel has come. God is with us.
 As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, let us bring to Him our prayers for this,
 our church family, and for everyone in need.

After each petition:

P: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;

C: Emmanuel, hear our prayer.

P: Celebrating Your Nativity, we commend ourselves and all those for whom we
 pray into Your gracious hands; for You live and reign with the Father and the
 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREPARATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HYMN OF PRAISE “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” *LSB 380 v. 3*
Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In the beginning, You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

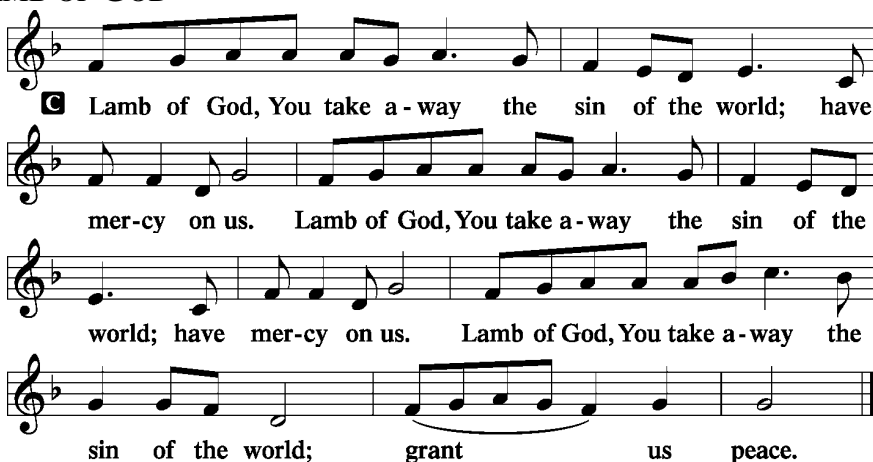
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord, be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

HOLY COMMUNION ... Because we believe Jesus' word that in communion He gives us His body and blood, forgives our sins, and strengthens our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we welcome to communion those

- * who are part of God's family through baptism;
- * who are growing by the power of the Holy Spirit in true faith in Jesus as their savior;
- * who are truly repentant and sorrowful for their sins; and
- * who intend by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend their lives.

If you feel your relationship with God is not of this nature, you may still come forward for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms at the communion rail), rather than communing to your spiritual harm. For those communing, both wine and grape juice are available.

(If you are unable to come forward for communion, please raise your hand after the last table of communicants has been dismissed.)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN	“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”	LSB 377
PIANO SOLO	“Fantasia on ‘Away in a Manger’” Arranged by Larry Shackley	
HYMN	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	LSB 368
HYMN	“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”	LSB 366
HYMN	“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”	LSB 358

THANKSGIVING

P: O Lord, You came to us as a child, laid in a manger.

C: You have now come to us...in this place...in this meal...with Your body and Your blood.

P: Remain with us, O Christ, and lead us to shine Your burning light in every dark corner of this world.

C: Fill us with the joy of Your presence.

P: On that first Christmas, when the angels appeared to the shepherds,

C: The glory of the Lord shone all around them.

P: When Christ was born, the glory of the Lord was revealed to all the world.

C: On this Christmas Eve, the glory of the Lord is all around us.

P: Tonight and every day of our lives, we look forward with expectation to the Lord because He lights our way.

ADULT CHOIR “A Holy, Silent Night”
By Lloyd Larson

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*The light will now be taken from the Christ Candle to you, signifying the
Light of our Savior who comes to the world and into our lives.*

Please keep your lit candle held upright.

*If you are worshipping with a child,
please help him or her turn on the battery powered candle.
The choir will sing “O Holy Night” while the candles are lit.*

The congregation joins the choir in singing "Silent Night".

CANDLELIGHT HYMN

"Silent Night"

LSB 363

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C: Amen.

Please extinguish your candles.

*Be careful to hold your hand on the other side of the flame,
so as not to blow any melted wax toward your neighbor.*

The ushers will collect your candles as you exit the sanctuary.

May the light of Jesus always shine in you.

CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387 v. 1-3

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove;
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

POSTLUDE

Serving Us Tonight

Guest Pastor - Rev. Bill Jensen
Organist - Trudy Rowold

Elder Chris Byers (309-275-5040)
Ushers Kevin Holmes (Lead), Les Houk, and Marvin Loos
Altar Guild Les and Tracy Holloway
Adult Choir Cally Robertson, director
 Tracy Holloway, accompanist
Piano Solo Tracy Holloway

Altar Flowers

*The flowers on the altar tonight are given by Les and Tracy Holloway
in celebration of their son, Andrew's 27th birthday today.*

Acknowledgments

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Christmas Poinsettias 2023

The legend surrounding the poinsettias (Flower of the Holy Night), is several centuries old. A small girl, Pepita, had no gift to take to church on Christmas Eve to present to the Christ child. Because her cousin Pedro suggested she take a humble gift, she picked weeds from the roadside. At the altar, a miracle transformed the weeds into beautiful flowers. Like this little girl, out of love for the Christ child the following people have given flowers to adorn our chancel.

Alice Block

For God's many Blessings

Gerry and Linda Christman

For God's Blessings

Philip Christman

For God's Blessings

Doris Davenport

In memory of my husband, Roy and my parents

Pam Fuller

For God's Blessings

Kevin and Tammy Holmes

For God's many blessings in our lives and family

The Houk Family

For God's Blessings

Clark and Dawn Iseminger

For God's Blessings

The Johnson Family

In memory of Vern Johnson, Greg's dad and Linda Bullard, Tricia's mom

Danny and Nancy Kiedaisch

For God's Blessings

Jeff and Connie Kuenneth

In loving memory of Jim and Doris Kuenneth and Wayne Barcus

Marvin and Dee Loos

In memory of family members rejoicing in heaven

Shirley Pike

For the blessings of my family

Ron and Marilyn Rebmann

For God's Blessings

Larry and Trudy Rowold

For God's many blessings for our family...our children, their spouses, grandchildren, our extended family and friends but also for the gift of the Christ child.

The Wapp Family

For God's Blessings

*If you purchased a poinsettia,
you may take it home following worship tonight.*