

**The
LORD
GOD** is
with you
as a
HERO
who will
save you.





OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

“God’s Faithful Promises are Faithfully Kept!”

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Christian Education: 11:00 am

James N. Proeber, Pastor
Wisconsin Synod

Welcome to Our Redeemer

This morning the Lord’s prophet brings a message of hope and renewal. Its source is in his Son, Jesus. As the promised Savior, he came to rescue his people from sin, death, and every enemy. We can be confident of these blessings because Jesus is our Victorious Hero, our Conquering Lord, and our Loving Redeemer.

About the Service

The Order of Worship is printed in this folder. It is a service which draws our attention to God’s faithful promise, and leads us to rejoice in God’s faithful keeping of that promise. May our good and gracious God bless us as we stand in his presence, and as we worship him in love, and praise him with thanksgiving. Spoken and sung responses are indicated.

The Order of Worship

Opening Hymn “Lift Up Your Heads, Your Mighty Gates”
Christian Worship 3

Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Rejoice! God's Faithful Promise is Faithful

P: In love God promised to send the seed of the woman to crush the serpent's head. His coming would bring forgiveness and would release people from God's just sentence upon their sins. His coming would also reconcile God and man, repairing the relationship destroyed by disobedience. His coming would finally restore the promise of paradise and the loss of eternal life.



C: Lord, have mer — cy.

P: Throughout every generation God repeated his promise for the sake of the people of Israel, as well as all people. In his gracious and faithful proclamation, many found great hope, comfort, and joy: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.”



C: Christ, have mer — cy.

P: As the time drew near, God repeated his promise with greater clarity and more unmistakable signs. All would point to the precious Child of promise: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and will call him Immanuel.”



C: Lord, have mer — cy.

P: The Lord invites us to prepare ourselves to receive this promised Child. Return to the Lord with sincere humility. Rely on his on his never-failing promises. Rejoice, because God's Son

is promised to rescue guilt-grieved and repentant sinners.



C: A — — men!

Rejoice, God’s Faithful Promise Works Repentance

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and accept the invitation of the Lord’s prophet: “Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” *Isaiah 1:18*

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Rejoice, God’s Faithful Promise Works Rescue

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has sent his Son into the world to be the Servant of Salvation. Rejoice because God has revealed Jesus as that Savior and has shown us mercy: “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.” *Isaiah 42:1-4*

P: Rejoice, because hope and peace have been established. Re-

joy because through Jesus' precious work and his authority, all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Rejoice, God's Faithful Promise Stands Forever

P: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. With joy I will draw water from the wells of salvation."
Isaiah 12:1-4

Oh, Taste and See



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e—



ter — nal; it stands firm in the heav —



ens. Your faith — ful — ness con — tin — ues for -



ev — er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless — ed are they who take ref — uge in him.

Prayer for the Day

P: O gracious God and Lord, when the time was right you sent your Son just as you had faithfully promised. In his coming as the Savior he endured humility, shame, and even death. Yet through his obedient sacrifice, he has proclaimed his glorious and all-surpassing victory. Give us faith to trust in him as our Victorious Hero who delivers and protects us from every enemy. Give us an equally confident faith to follow him as he leads us to eternal life in heaven. There we will join in the song of victory to you our true God— Father, Son and Spirit—who live and rules throughout endless ages.



C: A — — — men.

The Lessons from God's Word

"Behold, the Victorious Hero Comes!"

Old Testament

Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster.

¹⁶In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

Response to the Lesson

“Hark the Glad Sound!”
Christian Worship 12. st 1-2

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne and ev’ry voice a song.

He comes the captives to release, in Satan’s prison held.
The gates of brass before him burst; the iron fetters yield.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Verse of the Day

Psalms 146:1-6

P: Praise the LORD, O my soul. I will praise the LORD as long as I live. I will make music to my God as long as I exist. Do not trust in human helpers, in mortal man who cannot save you. His spirit departs. He returns to the ground he came from. On that day, his plans have perished. Blessed is everyone who has the God of Jacob as his help. His hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything which is in them. He is the one who stays faithful forever.

Response to the Lesson

“Hark the Glad Sound!”
Christian Worship 12. st 3-4

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim.
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

⁷So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?”

¹¹He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.”

¹⁴Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

P: This is the Word of our faithful God who keeps all of his promises faithfully



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

The Confession of Faith

**C:I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated
at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there 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.**

Hymn of the Day “Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes”
Christian Worship 9

Sermon Zephaniah 3:14-17

“A Victorious Hero will Come!”

Who will save you

Who delight in you

Who will quiet you with his love

Hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
Christian Worship 361 st. 1

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

And with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ, our God, to earth descending,
Comes our homage to command.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

God's Faithful Promise of a Conquering Hero

Isaiah 9:2-7 — ²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. ³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. ⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian. ⁵Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

God's Faithful Promise is Complete in Jesus

Revelation 5:9-14 — ⁹And they sang a new song, saying:
You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were slain, and you bought us for God with
your blood out of every tribe and language and people
and nation. ¹⁰You made them to be a kingdom and
priests for our God, and they will reign on the earth.

¹¹ And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels who were around the throne and around the living creatures and the elders. Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands upon thousands. ¹² With a loud voice they were saying:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

¹³ I also heard every creature that is in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever.

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders bowed down and worshipped.

P: God has kept his faithful promise, and has provided us with a all powerful and victorious Hero. This conqueror is our Savior, Jesus Christ. By faith we prepare ourselves to welcome him at his birth. By faith we prepare ourselves to stand before him when he comes again in glory. He is the one to whom we say:

⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates.

Lift yourselves up, you ancient doors,
and the King of Glory will come in.

⁸ Who is this King of Glory?

The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates.

Lift up, you ancient doors,
and the King of Glory will come in.

¹⁰ Who is he, this King of Glory?

The LORD of Armies—he is the King of Glory.

Psalm 24:7-10

*During the lighting of the Advent Candle
The congregation will sing —*

Hymn

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Christian Worship 361 st. 3

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spread its vanguard on the way
As the Light from Light descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

Prayer for the Day

Special Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen!**

Hymn

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Christian Worship 340

Closing Prayer

P: O gracious Savior, our victorious Lord and the Hero of our faith, daily remind us of the encouragement you provide through your apostle: “³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴into

an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

⁶Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials ⁷so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

Give us the strength of faith to rely on the victory you have secured. Give us also the strength we need to follow you as you lead us in a glorious and triumphant procession. Keep us ever in your care until we join you in heaven. There we will praise you as our Lord, our Savior, and our Conquering Hero who has given us the complete victory.



C: A — men.

The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord in gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord look on you with his favor; and

give you peace.



C: A - men. A — men. A — men.

Closing Hymn

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”
Christian Worship 28 st. 1, 4-6

Silent Prayer

Announcements . . .

Today—*Welcome in Name of our ever-loving and ever-faithful Savior.* May the peace and reassurance through his complete victory fill you with joy and peace as you prepare to welcome the Christ Child. If you are visiting us this morning, please sign our guest book, and visit again—soon!

- Following the service everyone is invited to enjoy a cup of coffee and the gift of fellowship.
- Christian Education will start at 11:00 am and review the Epistle lesson of the day where Paul encourages us to rejoice.
- This afternoon at 3:30 pm we will gather for a chili dinner, church decorating, and dessert. Please see the next page.

Monday—Handbell Choir practice at 7:00 pm

Wednesday—The Bible Class on the Book of James is coming to a close. This evening we will complete chapter 5 which considers patience and prayer.

Friday—Office Hours 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

- Ladies Christmas Fellowship at 7:00 pm. Please see the next page. You may also check the table in the back of the church for more information and what to bring.

Saturday—Cleaning—Florez

- Mowing beginning December 12th—Favuzzi

Sunday, December 19th—**Advent Worship at 9:30 am.** This will include both an in-person and live-streamed service. As we conclude the season of Advent, we will hear how God faithfully promised, and faithfully kept that promise to send a loving Shepherd who would protect us, guide us, and give his life for us.

- Christian Education will follow the service and will consider Mary’s song of praise announcing the gracious good will of the Lord in sending the Savior.

What's Happening . . .

Over the next two weeks we will have a number of special opportunities through which we can invite others to come to know their Savior Jesus Christ and what he has done for them. Make sure you take the opportunity to “share the good news!”

- Next Sunday our Advent worship comes to a close where we rejoice to know:

God's Faithful Promises Faithfully Kept

Sending a Loving Shepherd

- Church Decorating & Chili dinner—tonight. Everything begins at 3:30 pm. In the past we also did some caroling. Because of restrictions, we will not be able to do that. Still the time of service and fellowship will be enjoyed. We will start with dinner, decorate and finish with desserts.
- Ladies Christmas Fellowship will be December 17th at 7:00 pm. Karolyn Hanna will be the host. More information is on the table in the back of the church.
- Christmas Eve—Friday, December 24th, and Christmas Day—Saturday, December 25th, will be 7:00 pm and 9:30 am respectively. While there are many traditions which can be a part of Christmas, make the worship of our new-born Savior your first priority.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thank You

To Al Todd, our pianist and Hymnsoft operator; to Josh Schueler and Jim Everson for controlling the audio and video for the live stream; to Sue Proeber for placing flowers on the altar—to the praise and glory of our coming Savior, and the rich blessings he graciously brings.



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