



**“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”**

**John 10:14, NIV**



**OUR REDEEMER**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **“God’s Faithful Promises are Faithfully Kept!”**

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Christian Education: 11:00 am

James N. Proeber, Pastor  
Wisconsin Synod

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### **Welcome to Our Redeemer**

Our Advent season comes to a close, but not our reason to rejoice. God has faithfully kept all of his promises, and sent his Son to be the Promised Savior. With his coming we are the recipients of innumerable blessings, especially the rich blessing which comes from Jesus being our Loving Shepherd.

### **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**

“Comfort, Comfort All My People”  
*Christian Worship 11*

### **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 and faithful heavenly Father, we rejoice to hear your precious Word which you have faithfully kept. We also rejoice to know Jesus as the promised Savior and our loving Good Shepherd. Continue to bless us with your pure and holy Word. Continue to support us by its undeniable and uncompromising truth. Continue to strengthen us as we follow its never-failing guide while we travel through this life to eternal life. In your heavenly kingdom we will praise you together with your Son and the Spirit—throughout endless ages.



C: A — — — men.

### The Lessons from God's Word

*"Behold, the Good Shepherd Comes in Mercy  
to Safely Lead His Sheep!"*

#### Old Testament

*Micah 5:2-5a*

<sup>2</sup>But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>This one will be their peace.

**Response to the Lesson**      “Jesus, Came the Heaven’s Adoring”  
*Christian Worship 26. st 1*

Jesus, came the heav’ns adoring,  
Came with peace from realms on high;  
Jesus came to win redemption,  
Lowly came on earth to die.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

**Epistle**

*Hebrews 10:5–10*

<sup>5</sup>Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me. <sup>6</sup>You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said,

“Here I am. I have come to do your will, God. In the scroll of the book it is written about me.”

<sup>8</sup>First he said:

“Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law, both burnt offerings and sin offerings, you did not desire, and you were not pleased with them.”

<sup>9</sup>Then he said:

“Here I am. I have come to do your will.”

He does away with the first in order to establish the second.

<sup>10</sup>By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

**Verse of the Day**

*Ezekiel 34:11-16*

P: <sup>11</sup>For this is what the LORD God says. Here I am. I myself will seek the welfare of my flock and carefully search for them. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd searches for his flock when his sheep that were with him have been scattered, so I will search for my flock and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own soil. I will shepherd them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys, and

in all the settlements of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will lead them into good pasture, and their grazing land will be on the high mountains of Israel. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and they will pasture on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will shepherd my flock. I myself will let them lie down, declares the LORD God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost. I will bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured. I will strengthen the weak. I will destroy the fat and the strong, and I will shepherd them with justice.

**Response to the Lesson**      “Jesus, Came the Heaven’s Adoring”  
*Christian Worship 26 st. 2*

Jesus comes again in mercy  
When our hearts are worn with care;  
Jesus comes again in answer to an earnest, heartfelt prayer.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

**Gospel** *Luke 1:39–55*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. <sup>40</sup>She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>Just as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>She called out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!”

<sup>46</sup>Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup>because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has



shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. <sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, <sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

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**

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”  
*Christian Worship 375*

**Sermon**

Micah 5:2-5

**“The LORD will Shepherd His People”**

In strength and majesty  
In peace and security

**Hamdbells**

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel”  
*Arranged by Sandra Eithun*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

**God’s Faithful Promise of a Loving Shepherd**

*Psalm 23* — <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd. I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He causes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside quiet waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You set a table for me in the presence of my foes.

You drench my head with oil.

My cup is overflowing.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

**God’s Faithful Promise Faithfully Kept in Jesus**

*John 10:11-18* — <sup>11</sup> “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks

the sheep and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.

<sup>14</sup>“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me <sup>15</sup> (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”

P: God has kept his faithful promise, and has provided us with a gracious and loving Shepherd to feed, guide, and protect us. This Shepherd is our Savior, Jesus Christ. By faith we prepare ourselves to greet him at his coming. By faith we prepare ourselves to greet him when he comes again in glory. He is the Good Shepherd about whom we joyfully declare:

Blessed be the LORD,  
because he has heard the sound of my plea for mercy.  
The LORD is my strength and my shield.  
In him my heart trusts, and I am helped.  
My heart also celebrates.  
With my song I will give thanks to him.  
Save your people, and bless the people that belong to you.  
Shepherd them, and carry them forever.

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

**Hymn**

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”  
*Christian Worship 23*

Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night.  
And death's dark shadows put to flight  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, oh, come, Good Shepherd of your sheep;  
Your own to watch and safe — ly keep.  
Protect and guide us all our days,  
And give us joy to sing — your praise.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

## Thanksgiving and Prayer

### **Responsive Prayer**

P: Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, we have heard the faithful promise of your Father, and we rejoice that he has kept it faithfully. Bless that Word in our lives. Use its message to give peace to our spirits and comfort to our hearts. Guide us by its never-failing truth as we follow you throughout this life.

**C: Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
Much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feeds us;  
For our use your fold prepare.**

P: Lord Jesus, Gracious Shepherd, we are confused and foolish without you. Forgive us for the times we have wandered from you and strayed from the call of your voice. Rescue us from danger. Restore us to your fold. Renew us by your precious promises and your compassionate care.

**C: We are yours; in love befriend us;  
Be the guardian of our way.  
Keep your flock; from sin defend us;  
Seek us when we go astray.**

P: Lord Jesus, Tender Shepherd, look with love on us, and all who suffer from loneliness, sickness, accident or loss. Lift them in your comforting arms and embrace them in the warmth of your

mercy. Carry us through all of life's troubling times. Renew our hope, and give us joy as we faithfully follow you and your will.

**C: Ever let us seek your favor;  
Ever let us do your will.  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With your love our hope fulfill.**

### **Special Requests and 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**

“Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep”  
*Christian Worship 436*

### **Closing Prayer**

P: O gracious and faithful Lord, once again you have proclaimed your faithful promises to us, and in great compassion, you have fulfilled every one of them. How can we ever thank you for what you have revealed to us? How can we ever thank you for giving your Son as our Good and Faithful Shepherd? Give us the faith we need to hear your Word and receive it with joyful hearts. Give us also the faith we need to live our lives ever following your gracious Truth. Your Word is our greatest treasure, bless us as we faithfully hear it. Guide us as we faithfully study it. Strengthen us as we faithfully follow it as it leads us to you, our

good and gracious God—Father, Son and Spirit—and as it bring us safely to life in heaven.



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*

### Silent Prayer

#### Announcements . . .

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

- Following the service everyone is invited to enjoy some snacks and coffee.
- Christian Education will start at 11:00 am and review the lessons of the Gospel reading for today.

**Monday**—Handbell Choir practice at 7:00 pm.

**Wednesday**—There will be no Bible Class this evening. We will resume on January 5th with a Bible Study on the Divine Call and

process we use to call a pastor.

**Friday—Christmas Eve Worship and Live streaming at 7:00 pm.** Snacks and fellowship will follow the service.

**Saturday—Christmas Day Worship and Live Streaming at 9:30 am.** We will continue with the joyous Good News that God has provided a Savior in his Son—just as he had promised.

**Sunday, December 26th**—The celebration of our Savior’s birth continues! Our Sunday Worship and Live-streaming will begin at 9:30 am. We know that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary. We also know he became fully human, but why did Jesus have to take flesh and blood to himself. He did this to become our servant and the one who rescues us.

- There will be no Bible Study following the worship service. We will restart in the New Year.
- Following the worship service, Pastor Proeber will travel to Phoenix to do some home repairs. If you need to contact him, please call the parsonage, or his cell phone.

### 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; to Margaret Brown and Caroline Pettus for service refreshments after the service; and to all the people who helped decorate the sanctuary and fellowship hall last Sunday.

### 2022 Offering Envelopes

The envelope boxes are available on the table in the back of the church. Please pick up your family’s as soon as possible. Thank You!



OUR REDEEMER  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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