



OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
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The messenger
of the covenant
in whom
you delight—
indeed,

he is coming,

says the
LORD
of hosts.

MALACHI 3:1, NRSV



OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

December 5, 2021
Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
Christian Education: 11:00 am

James N. Proeber, Pastor
Wisconsin Synod

Welcome to Our Redeemer

Throughout every generation God spoke to his people. With the message of the prophets, he gave promise after promise. Those promises which he faithfully kept in sending a Savior are our confidence he will keep every promise to us. For this we rejoice, and put our trust in the Lord who is faithful to us, and his Word.

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

“On Jordan’s Bank”
Christian Worship 16

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.

As a Christian and Scripture-centered congregation, we invite you to believe and confess with us . . .

- ♣ That there is one God, and he has revealed himself as the Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- ♣ That God has made himself known to us and all men through the Bible - his true, inspired and error-free Word;
- ♣ That all people, because of the disobedience of the first man and woman, are conceived and born in sin, and that because of sin, all people deserve eternal death;
- ♣ That God sent his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to be born of a virgin, to live, die and rise again to take away the eternal condemnation of sin;
- ♣ That God’s grace through Jesus is given to us through faith worked by the Holy Spirit and the Means of Grace - the Gospel in God’s Word and the Sacraments;
- ♣ That faith, strengthened by Word and Sacrament, is the living force within us which produces good works which are pleasing to God;
- ♣ That on the Last Day Christ will come again in all his glory to take us and all believers to live with himself in heaven for all eternity;

If you would like more information, please check the items listed below, and either hand it to the Pastor or an usher.

I am interested in . . .

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information about the church | <input type="checkbox"/> Having the pastor visit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs in the congregation | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Receiving the newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Classes |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Best time to contact: _____

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

Acknowledgements

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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-

✘ **Sermon**

Malachi 3:1-4

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

²But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers' bleach! ³He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

⁴Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago

Look! I am Sending My Messenger!"

He will proclaim my covenant
He will proclaim my righteousness

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 Father, your desire is that all people come to know the truth and your plan of rescue. For this reason you sent your prophets as messengers to proclaim the good things that were going to happen. When the time was right, you sent your only Son to be this messenger of peace and good news. In his proclamation, in his teaching, in every lesson he offers we hear the truth which offers eternal life. Continue to bless us with your pure and holy Word. Let nothing ever rob us of the joyful truth we have and know. Make this good news our confidence of life and our certainty of heaven. There we will praise you, your Son and the Holy Spirit throughout endless ages.



C: A — men.

The Lessons from God’s Word

“Behold, the Messenger of Good News is Coming!”

Old Testament

Malachi 3:1-4

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

²But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire, like launderers bleach! ³He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

What’s Happening . . .

In the coming month 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!”

- Our Advent season of worship prepares us to welcome our Savior. This year we will turn our attention to the Old Testament Prophets and their prophecies. Each provided a beautiful and needed piece of the picture regarding Jesus’ birth. Our Advent services will be on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. They will follow the theme —

God’s Faithful Promises Faithfully Kept

- A Royal, Righteous Branch
- A Sacred Messenger
- A Victorious Hero
- A Loving Shepherd

- Church Decorating & Chili dinner—December 12th. Everything begins at 3:30 pm. This year we will start with our usual chili dinner. After dinner we will decorate the church—about 2 hours. The evening will conclude with desserts and fellowship.
- 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!

Tuesday—Church Council meeting at 7:00 pm. Committees will follow at 8:00 pm.

Wednesday—Bible Class on the Book of James at 7:00 pm. We are in the final portions of chapter 4 which warn us about the standards we use for judging other people.

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

Saturday—Cleaning—Favuzzi

- Mowing beginning December 12th—Favuzzi

Sunday, December 12th—**Advent Worship at 9:30 am.** This will include both an in-person and live-streamed service. God continues to give us every reason to trust him and trust the rescue he has provided. That faithful promise of rescue was provided through the Victorious Hero God provided in his Son, our Savior.

- Christian Education will follow the service.
- Chili Dinner and Church Decorating begins at 3:30 pm.

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 Karolyn Hanna for placing flowers on the altar—to the praise and glory of our coming Savior, and the rich blessings he graciously brings; and to Linda Williams, Jan Scheffler, and Karolyn Hanna for provide refreshments after the service.



⁴Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago

Response to the Lesson "God Has Spoken By His Prophets"
Christian Worship 281 st. 1

God has spoken by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming God the one,
the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor holds us fast;
God is King, his throne eternal,
God the first and God the last.

Epistle

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. ⁸Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. ¹⁰This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Verse of the Day

Psalms 66:16-20

P: Come, listen, all you who fear God, and let me tell you what he has done to save my life. To him I cried out with my mouth.

High praise was on my tongue. If I had contemplated evil in my heart, the LORD would not have listened, but God has surely listened. He has paid attention to the sound of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not turned aside my prayer or turned aside his mercy from me!

Response to the Lesson “God has Spoken by His Prophets”
Christian Worship 281 st. 2

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
 Christ, the everlasting Son,
 Brightness of the Father’s glory,
 with the Father ever one,
 Spoken by the Word incarnate,
 God from God, before time was,
 Light from Light, to earth descending —
 He reveals our God to us.

Gospel *Luke 3:1–6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
 “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.
⁵Every valley will be filled, and every mountain
 and hill will be made low.
 The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.
⁶And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

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



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 him at his birth, and at his return in glory. 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 a cup of coffee, some snacks, and the gift of fellowship.
- Christian Education will start at 11:00 am. This morning we will consider the beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist, and how God gives us a credible, historical perspective.

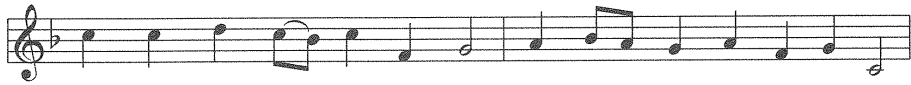
Monday—Pastor’s Circuit Study at 9:30 am. Pastor will be at St. John’s, Tarzana for the morning and early afternoon.

- Handbell Choir practice at 7:00 pm

Thanksgiving

Song of Thanksgiving

(Congregation rises and sings)



Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu — ia!

Closing Prayer:

P: O gracious Lord, how good are you are and how blessed you have made us. Whenever we come to you burdened with our guilt and humbled by our rebellion, you have forgiven our sins. Through your gracious Word, together with Jesus' body and blood, you have declared all our sins completely washed away. Make this good news the source of our peace and joy. When we daily struggle with sin, lead us to acknowledge that sinfulness and humbly confess it. Then reassure us all is completely washed away for Jesus' sake. Make every blessing he secured by his death and resurrection our highest good and the confidence of your unyielding love. As we live in anticipation of life in heaven, be our comfort, our strength, and our ever faithful and glorious King. Bless us, now and always, as we live in your love—our true, Triune and gracious God.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

The Confession of Faith

(We join in the words of the Nicene Creed)

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is

worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen!**

Hymn of the Day “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”
Christian Worship 15

Sermon *Malachi 3:1-7*
“Look! I am Sending My Messenger!”
He will proclaim my covenant
He will proclaim my righteousness

Hymn “Blest be the God of Israel”
Christian Worship 275 st. 1

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
He visits and redeems us; he grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

God’s Faithful Promise of a New Covenant

Isaiah 42:5-8—This is what the true God says, the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out, who spreads out the earth and everything that it produces, who gives breath to the people on it and life to those who walk on it. I am the LORD. I have called you in righteousness. I will hold on to your hand, and I will guard you. I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people, to be a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon, and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison. I am the LORD; that is my name.

God’s Faithful Promise of Righteousness

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a—way the sin of the



world; have mer—cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a—way the sin of the world; have mer—cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a—way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A ——— men.

The Congregation may be seated for the Distribution

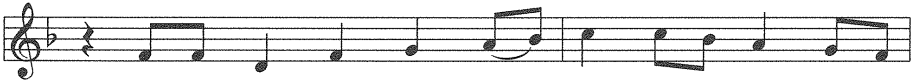
Please come forward at the direction of the pastor, allowing sufficient space between you and the next person. He will place the bread in your hand, then the cup. After drinking, please place the cup in the tray on the far side of the altar, and return to your seat going along the east wall. The closing blessing will be given after all have received the Sacrament.

The Blessing

P: Now may this, the true body and true blood of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, make and keep you strong in your faith unto eternal life. Go in peace, all your sins are forgiven. Amen.



You are my God, and I will ex—alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be—come my sal—



va—tion. Ho—ly, ho—ly, ho—ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo — ry.

The Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The Blessing of Peace

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



C: A — men.

Isaiah 51:4-8—Pay attention to me, O my people. My nation, listen to me! For the law will go out from me, and I will establish my justice as a light to the peoples. My righteousness is near. My salvation goes forth, and my arms will bring justice to the peoples.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens. Look closely at the earth beneath, because the heavens will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitants will die like gnats. But my salvation will remain forever, and my righteousness will never be abolished. Listen to me, you people who know righteousness, you people who have my law in your hearts. Do not fear the insults of men, and do not be discouraged by their abuse. Because a moth will consume them like a garment, and its worm will consume them like wool.

But my righteousness will remain forever, and my salvation will last for all generations.

P: God has kept his faithful promise, and has provided us with a righteous and holy messenger. That messenger is our Savior, Jesus Christ. By faith we prepare ourselves to hear the good news about his birth. By faith we prepare ourselves to live in the new covenant he has established through his faithfulness. He is the one about whom the prophets testify. He is the one about whom we say:

Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.
Declare among the peoples what he has done.
Proclaim that his name is exalted!
Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things!
Let this be known in all the earth!
Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,
For the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

The second candle is lighted

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

Hymn

“Blest be the God of Israel”
Christian Worship 275 st. 2

The Sacrament

He from the house of David a child of grace has giv’n;
A Savior comes among us to raise us up to heav’n.
Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

Prayers for the Lord’s Blessing

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!**

The Lord’s Supper is a Sacrament through which Jesus Christ our Savior strengthens our faith and forgives our sins. In it we receive His actual body and blood, as we receive the bread and the wine. If you have not communed with us before, or if you are not familiar with our procedure, please do not come to the Lord’s Table today. We also encourage you to speak with our pastor following the service. He will be happy to share with you the necessary preparations to receive our Savior’s body and blood in a future service.

Our request comes out of love for you and concern for your spiritual well-being, so that you can receive the blessing our Lord wants you to receive.

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al—so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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



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

P: Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He has blessed us with his faithful promises which he has faithfully kept in Christ Jesus our Savior. Through him has come salvation, power, the kingdom of our God, and the authority to rule over all things. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks, honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho—ly, ho—ly, ho—ly, is the Lord of hosts;



The whole earth is full of your glo—ry.