





Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Christian Education: 11:00 am

James N. Proeber, Pastor

967-1128—Office & 967-3570—Home

“Rejoice and Sing, Christ the Savior is Born!”

December 25, 2022 - Christmas Day Worship

Welcome to Our Redeemer!

What a privilege we have been given! Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God’s Son and our Savior. As we join in the songs of great joy, turn our attention to the Word of God, and offer our prayers and praise, the Lord promises to bless us. He also leads us to treasure this precious message every day of our life as we journey to eternal life.

For Parents with Small Children

There are children’s activity folders in the basket by the back door, please pick one up if needed. The worship service is also televised in the fellowship hall, where the rest rooms are also located. After you leave the church, turn left and go through the double doors.

The Order of Worship

“Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

Pre-Service Music and Welcome

The Call to Worship

“The Magnificat”

P: My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior;
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,

For the Mighty One has done great things for me —
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones,
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful to Abraham
and his descendants forever,
even as he said to our fathers.”

Opening Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Christian Worship 63

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strain.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

We Gather in the Presence of our God

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.

The Confession of Sins

P: Dear friends, on this the celebration of our Savior's birth, let us examine our hearts that we may receive the special comfort, joy and peace given by God to all who humbly confess their sins.

C: When we examine ourselves we find nothing in us but sin and death. Our best works are nothing more than filthy rags, completely unworthy of any merit before God. We also know there is no escape from the eternal consequences of our sinful rebellion.

P: This is why our Lord had to have mercy on us. Even in his justice he did not want sinners to die. So he sent his Son to be our Substitute. He took on our flesh and blood. He took our place under the Law. He even consented to endure the punishment we deserved because of our sin. Therefore, trusting solely in the perfect obedience of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us place ourselves at his mercy.

C: O Almighty and most merciful Father, we must confess that we are completely corrupted by sin. We see disobedience in our thoughts, in our words, and in our every action. We must also confess, we deserve nothing from you except your just judgment on our lives. But we come pleading the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ, and we humbly pray: Lord have mercy on us!

The Absolution

P: Because of the perfect obedience of Jesus as our Substitute, we can be confident God has heard and answered our prayers. We can also be confident our sins are forgiven. Truly, God is good to all who call on him and have faith in his Son. Thankful for this great outpouring of grace, let us join in praising God with our voices, and by serving him with our lives. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Let All Together Praise our God”
Christian Worship 41 st. 1, 3-5

Let all together praise our God
Before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav'n again
And gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.

He veils in flesh his pow'r divine
A servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must die
Who heav'n and earth did make,
 who heav'n and earth did make.

A wondrous change which he does make:
He takes our flesh and blood,
And he conceals for sinners' sake
His majesty as God, his majesty as God.

He serves that I a lord may be —
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love for more for me
To help me in my need, to help me in my need?

The Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Handbells

“Riu, Riu, Chiu”

*Arranged by Mitchell Eithun
Published by Hope Publishing*

The one who is born is the Great Monarch;
Christ the Patriarch clothed in flesh;
He has redeemed us by making himself small;
Though he was infinite; He became finite.

Riu, riu, chiu...

He comes to give life to the dead.
He comes to repair the fall of all mankind.

This Child is the light of day;
He is the Lamb of whom St. John spoke.

Riu, riu, chiu...

I saw a thousand Angels who were singing;
Flying around chanting in a thousand voices,
Saying to the shepherds “Glory in Heaven,
And peace on earth for Jesus is born!”

*The Refrain (Riu, riu, chiu) is translated —
Christ will come, and will protect.
Christ will come, and safely keep his sheep.*

The Confession of Faith

*(The Nicene Creed is a most appropriate confession at
the celebration of the birth of Jesus, who is True God
and True Man and born to be our Savior.)*

**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!**

Christmas Meditation

*A series of Devotions based on Luther's Christmas Hymn:
"Vom Himmel Hoch, da komm ich her." Of this song it was
noted that "Luther was accustomed every year to prepare
for his family a happy Christmas Eve's entertainment . .
and for this festival of his children he wrote this hymn."*

Hymn

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"
Christian Worship 38 v.1 & 2

**"From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Where-of I now will say and sing."**

**"To you this night is born a Child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little Child of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth."**

Devotion

“What are God’s Glad Tidings of Great Joy?”

Hymn

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Christian Worship 38 v. 3 & 4

“This is the Christ, our God most high
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.”

“He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in his kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us his glory share.”

Devotion

“What are the Gifts God has Bestowed?”

Hymn

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Christian Worship 38 v. 5 & 7

“These are the signs which you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies,
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christchild lying there.

Devotion

“What does God Invite Me to See?”

Hymn

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”
Christian Worship 38 v. 8 & 13

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That you might share your joy with me.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for you.

Devotion

“What Response Does God Prompt in Me?”

Hymn

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”
Christian Worship 38 v. 14 & 15

My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle song:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us his Son has given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth!

Prayer and Thanksgiving

Prayer for Christmas Day

*(the congregation will read responsively the words of the
Hymn— “Peace Came to Earth”)*

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Preserver of all things seen and unseen, we praise you for the special love you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.

**C: Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed his might —
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!
Who could by sing: Immanuel!**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servant-like heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh. You became fully human so that you might live the holy and perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross we deserved, and suffer death as our substitute.

**C: And who could be the same for having held
The infant in their arms and later felt
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled —
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!
Who could but shout: Immanuel!**

P: O Holy Spirit, we thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior. You have opened our eyes to see that, despite his humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of the world.

**C: You show the Father none has ever seen,
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine you visit us again —
Who could but see: Immanuel!
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!**

P: God of our rescue, as you have brought us to faith in the Christ

Child, so we ask that you would work powerfully also in the hearts of those who do not yet know him or who do not know him in truth. Grant that the world's attention to the Christ Child may not be only a seasonal attraction or a sentimental novelty. Rather, bring sinners to faith that they may see him as the answer to life's problems now, and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven with you.

**C: How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel!
Who could but praise: Immanuel!**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Let the joyous message of Christmas be proclaimed throughout the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believing hearts, for the rescue of lost souls, for the spread of your kingdom, and for the glory of your holy name.

C: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

The Lord's Prayer *(spoken with the pastor)*

**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!**

Closing Song of Praise*“Benedictus”*

P: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come and redeemed his people.
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in
the house of his servant David.
(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us -
to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath he swore to our father Abraham;
to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”

The Benediction

P: To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and great joy to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

C: Amen!

Closing Hymn

*“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”
Christian Worship 34*

Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild.
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!

Now through his Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reigned through sin and vanity;
He for us obtained
Eternal joy on high.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!

Oh, where can joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground!
Where the angels singing
With all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing,
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Silent Prayer

Announcements

This Morning—Welcome in our Jesus' Name! May the blessing of our new-born Savior and the rich gifts he brings be in your hearts and lives always. If you are visiting today, please sign our guest book, and visit us again, soon!

- Following the service everyone is invited to enjoy a cup of coffee and a few snacks in the fellowship hall.
- Around noon Pastor and his family will travel to Arizona. If you need to contact him, please use his cell number. If it is an emergency, please call Greg Grunewald.

Sunday, January 1st - Worship and live-streaming at 9:30 am. In

the visit of the “magi,” God demonstrates his great, undeserved love for all in paying attention to even the smallest of details. It is this attention to detail which gives us every reason to trust him for what we need in this life, and what we need for eternal life.

- During the service we will also have the opportunity to receive the Lord’s Supper. You may register to receive it today. What a way to begin the New Year—with the Lord’s faithful promise and with the Lord’s full and free forgiveness.
- There will be no Bible Class follow Sunday’s service.





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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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