





OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Jesus Birth Gives Us Blessings for the New Year!”

December 31, 2023

The Sunday after Christmas

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Lord’s Supper:

First Sunday of the Month

James N. Proeber, Pastor

Wisconsin Synod

Welcome to Our Redeemer

The Lord our God has blessed us richly in so many ways. He has given us a new-born Savior to rescue us from sin and death, and to guard and keep us by his grace. He has also brought us safely to the threshold of another year. As we consider what is ahead, we have no fears, doubts, or apprehensions. Our God is with us. He is strong to save. He will bring us safely to his side in heaven.

For Parents with Small Children

There is children’s service folder in the basket by the front door. Please pick one up if needed. Restrooms are located in the fellowship hall along with a television monitor to watch the service. Please go left from the church and walk to the double doors.

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music and Welcome

Opening Hymn

“Oh, Rejoice, All Christians Loudly”

Christian Worship 45 st. 1-3

Oh, rejoice, all Christians loudly,
For our joys have now begun;
Wondrous things our God has done.
Tell abroad his goodness proudly,

Who our race has honored so,
That he lives with us below.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness,
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining,
For the Sun of grace is shining!

See, my soul, your Savior chooses
Poverty and weakness, too;
In such love he comes to you.
Neither crib nor cross refuses,
All he suffers for your good
To redeem you by his blood.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness,
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining,
For the Sun of grace is shining!

Lord, how shall I thank you rightly?
I am saved eternally
By your life and death for me.
Let me not regard you lightly
But on you in faith depend,
Praising you, my heav'nly friend.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness,
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining,
For the Sun of grace is shining!

The Invocation

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



C: A — men!

P: From God's Word we have come to know: "Christ himself entrusted absolution to his Church and commanded us to absolve one another from our sins. So if there is a heart that feels its sin and desires consolation, it has here a sure refuge when it hears in God's Word that through a fellow human being, God absolves a person from sin."

In the name of our God and Savior to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden.

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy,
and in your faithfulness, come to my relief.
Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.
Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.**

P: It is because of the Lord's faithfulness and undeserved love that we humbly confess our sins.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, by my words, and with my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

The Absolution

P: Jesus says to his people, if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

P: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

C: O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you answered me. I thank you for the love you have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Through him you have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. Help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and serve you and those around me with love and good works. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



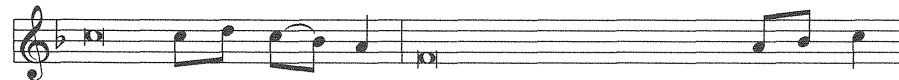
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



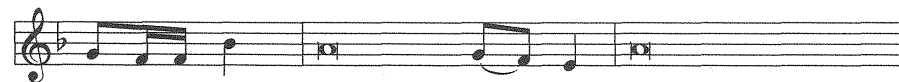
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'nly King,



God the Fa-ther Al-mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



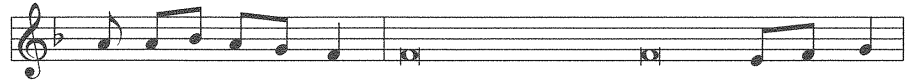
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Prayer for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al— so with you.

P: O gracious Lord, you have kept us by your faithful promises and your undeserved love. Both lead us to your Son, our newborn Savior. As we remember your blessings which have guided us through the past, help us rely on your faithfulness for the future. Even though we may not know what is in store, we do know you are in control and your promises will always stand true. You have been with us in the past. You continue to be with us, and you will always be with us. Make this assurance our confidence for the year to come. Be our strength and our hope as you daily lead us, and as you bring us closer to our heavenly goal. In your eternal kingdom we will praise you—Father, Son and Spirit—for your undeserved love and faithful blessing.



C: A — men!

The Lessons from God's Word *"Bless Me through Your Great Mercy!"*

Old Testament

1 Kings 8:6–13

⁶The priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim, ⁷for the cherubim were spreading their wings over the place for the ark, so that the cherubim covered the ark and its poles with their wings. ⁸The poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. They are there to this day.

⁹There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets, which Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁰When the priests came out from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the House of the LORD. ¹¹The priests were not able to take their positions to minister in the presence of the cloud, because the Glory of the LORD had filled the House of the LORD.

¹²Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he dwells in thick darkness. ¹³I have truly built a majestic house for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

Psalm verse

P: I will thank the LORD with all my heart in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation. Great are the deeds of the LORD. They are studied by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic is his work, and his righteousness stands forever. He has set up a memorial to his wonders. Gracious and compassionate is the LORD. He remembers his covenant forever.

Congregation sings

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
Christian Worship 441 st. 1-2

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Epistle

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Therefore, as God’s elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. ¹⁴And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Verse of the Day

P: Great are the deeds of the LORD. The works of his hands are truth and justice. All his precepts are trustworthy, steadfast forever and ever, done in truth and uprightness. He sent redemption for his people. He commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. All who do his precepts have good understanding. His praise stands forever.

Congregation sings

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
Christian Worship 441 st. 3 & 6

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Gospel

P: The Gospel is recorded in the second chapter of Luke reading from the twenty-fifth verse.



C: Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, ²⁸Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

²⁹Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace,
according to your word,

³⁰because my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared before the face of all people,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.

³³Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to

Mary his mother, “Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. ³⁸Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

P: This is the Word of our God!



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!**

Christmas Blessings for the New Year

Hymn “Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter”

Christian Worship 70 st. 1

Help us, O Lord, for now we enter
Upon another year today.
In you our hopes and thoughts now center;
Renew our courage for the way.
New life, new strength, new happiness
We ask of you — oh, hear and bless.

¹²Therefore, as God’s elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. *Colossians 3:12-13*

Remember You are Special

Hymn “Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter”

Christian Worship 70 st. 4

Jesus, be with me and direct me;
Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire;
Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me;
Jesus, be all my heart’s desire;
Jesus, be in my thoughts all day
And never let me fall away.

¹⁴And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful. *Colossians 3:14-15*

Remember Christ's Love

Hymn "Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter"

Christian Worship 70 st. 3

And may this year to me be holy;
Your grace so fill my ev'ry thought
That all my life be pure and lowly
And truthful, as a Christian's ought.
So make me while I'm living here
Your faithful servant through the year.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:16-17

Remember to Give Thanks

Hymn "Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter"

Christian Worship 70 st. 2 & 5

May every plan and undertaking
Begin this year, O Lord, with you;
When I am sleeping or am waking,
Help me, dear Lord, your will to do.
In you alone, my God, I live;
You only can my sins forgive.

And grant, dear Lord, when the year is over,
That it for me in peace may close.

In all things care for me and cover
My head in time of fear and woes.
So may I, when my life is done,
Appear with joy before your throne.

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks!

Prayer for the Lord's Blessing

P: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

P: It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

P: You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

P: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

P: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

C: Increase our commitment to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Special prayers and intercessions.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

C: We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close.

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!**

Hymn

“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”
Christian Worship 42

Come, your hearts and voices raising
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

See how God for us providing,
Gave his Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.

Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need his help extending,

Saved us from the wily foe.

Jacob's Star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.

Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us;
From your lowly manger cheer us.
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir.

Closing Prayer

P: O precious and new-born Savior, you have given us your promise to be with us always. Still, we have our doubts, and Satan is always trying to deceive us. Never allow these distractions to cause us to lose our faith. Keep us strong. Encourage us with your Word. Comfort us with the peace of sins forgiven. O Jesus, in you we put our complete confidence, never let us be put to shame. Guide and guard us through the many confusing paths of this new year, and bring us safely to our final goal in heaven. There we will praise you—together with your Father and the Spirit—throughout all eternity.



C: A ——— men!

The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, aim for perfection, listen to God's Word, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and compassion will be with you.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;

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



C: A—men. A—men. A — men.

Closing Hymn

“Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly
Christian Worship 45 st. 4

Jesus, guard and guide your members;
Make us children of your grace;
Hear our prayers in ev’ry place.
Fan to life faith’s glowing embers;
Give all Christians far and near
Holy peace, a glad new year.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness,
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining,
For the Sun of grace is shining!

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—*Welcome in our gracious Savior’s Name!* May the blessing that comes from our new born Savior, Jesus Christ, well up within you to bring you a faithful and fruitful new life. If you are visiting this morning, please sign our guest book or a visitor card, and worship with us again—soon!

- Everyone is invited to enjoy some snacks and a cup of coffee after the worship service.
- Pastor Proeber will be in Phoenix until Thursday. Please use his cell number to get in contact with him. You may also call one of the elders in an emergency.

Friday—Office hours from 10:00 am—2:30 pm

Saturday—Clean: J. Brown

- Mowing beginning January 7th—E. Pettus

Sunday, January 7th—Sunday Worship and Live-streaming at

9:30 am. The baptism of Jesus offers us the daily assurance we need to know we are united with Jesus through his death and his resurrection. It is also through baptism we are adopted into God's family and made heirs of eternal life.

- The Lord Supper will be offered in this service. You may register to receive the Sacrament following the service today.
- Christian Education will follow the service. Through Isaiah's prophecy we will hear how God works miracles in order to bring light and rescue to his people.

Thank You

To Jim Everson and Jim Brown for controlling the audio and video of our streamed service; to those who decorated the church and the altar for the Christmas season of worship; and to Sue and Emily Proeber for serving snacks after the service.

Acknowledgements

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