



CHRIST + THE SAVIOR IS BORN

Service Focus:

Son of God

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California
First Sunday after Christmas | December 28, 2025



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Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! You have joined us for the most important time we spend together. Each time we gather as a family of faith, we make the gospel (or good news) of Jesus our central focus. It is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, our service proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Many of the elements of this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Some are very recent. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

Are you visiting with us today? Thank you! We love meeting our neighbors and would be grateful for the opportunity to extend our thanks in a more formal way. **Please consider filling out one of the Welcome/Connect cards in the rack in front of you, or scan the QR code** to the right to help us know you better.

Connect Card



For Your Convenience

- **The order of service** is printed in this folder. If a song is not printed in this service folder, it can be found in the blue hymnal in front of your seat. The pastor will speak the words in normal print. **The congregation is invited to speak those printed in bold.** Please participate as you are comfortable today.
- **Restrooms** are located in the fellowship hall building to the left as you exit church.
- Please reserve the rows in the back of the church for families with small children.
- If you are in need of any other assistance, any one of our members will be happy to assist you.

Participation & Children

Sometimes parents (and even churches) think that worship is not a place for children. At Our Redeemer, we're convinced that nothing could be further from the truth. We want children in church worshipping with their families and learning about Jesus' love for them. Why?

- Even from the earliest of ages, **children are models of faith** from which we can all learn (Luke 18:16,17). Similarly, they learn how to "do church" by watching mom & dad. Model worship for them.
- Our worship format not only encourages families to be together, but is ideally suited for active worship engagement and participation by all, including children, balancing new service elements each week with regular repetition for learning and memorization.
- The **sights and sounds of active children** during worship isn't bad at all – it's a reminder to the adults that the next generation of church leaders is already among us.

We realize that, especially at first, having children in church can be a challenge for parents. To help, we offer the following:

- If your child needs some individual attention to calm them down, an area in the fellowship hall, located just to the left as you exit church, is available. Worship can be watched and heard in this room.
- Other families are willing and ready to help. Let us know if we can offer a hand with your little ones.
- Activity sheets that kids can work on throughout the service are available on the stand in the back.

Series Focus

“Silent Night” was written originally in German by Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. It’s been played with numerous instruments and translated into many languages. The text paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: “Christ the Savior is born!” Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight	Lessons and Carols
December 25	Christmas Day Festival	Holy Infant So Tender and Mild
December 28	First Sunday after Christmas	Son of God
January 4	Epiphany of Our Lord	Love’s Pure Light Beams from Thy Holy Face

Service Focus

Christmas holidays mean family time, often with extended family travel and visits. Meals are prepared, gifts are given, memories are made. But the memories might not all be good. Sometimes there are Christmas hurts or even tragedies. We live in a world still affected by sin.

The sinfulness of the world cannot rob us of the peace God intends to bring through his Son. Christ the Savior is born, and through his life, God brings us into the family. He gives us the rights of redeemed sons and daughters, the privileges of inheritance.

Prayer before the Service

O Jesus, born in Bethlehem, be with us now as we journey on the path of life. Keep us safe from all danger, and guard and protect us as we travel from place to place. Wherever we may be in this new year of 2026, help us to remember that you will never leave us or forsake us. I pray this in your name. Amen.

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder
Music Operator: Jim Everson
Audio/Visual Booth: Josh Schueler
Usher: Erle Pettus
Welcome Table: Joyce Ampe
Flowers: Greg & Barb Grunewald
Fellowship: Sonja Todd & Pat Florez

The Service

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
Christian Worship 363 (st. 1,3)

This vibrant 19th-century English translation of the medieval carol “In dulci jubilo” was born from a mystic’s vision of angels dancing in praise of the newborn Christ. This hymn calls us to leap with joy at the Savior’s humble arrival, reminding us that heaven’s eternal delights stream from the manger’s light.

Stand

Invocation, Opening Sentences, and Confession

Matthew 28:19

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

John 1:14

The Word has become flesh, has come to dwell among us, and we have seen his glory.

Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 John 1:8

He is our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us worship him in spirit and in truth. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:9

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The confession emphasizes the themes of original and actual sins and the overriding need for the Lord’s mercy.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess to you that we have sinned and that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have walked in darkness and sinned against you in thoughts, words, and actions, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not been honest with ourselves, or with you. We deserve your punishment, now and forever. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we live in your light and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Silence for meditation and reflection

The pastor announces forgiveness to the penitent congregation. He appeals to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the basis for the full and free forgiveness of sins.

The Christ-child, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, is indeed the Son of God and Savior of the world. In him and through his death on the cross, God forgives all your sins. With this Spirit-worked confidence we can joyfully serve our God all our days with the blessed hope of eternal life.

Amen.

Song of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High *Christian Worship 346 (st. 1,3)*

Originally a French carol from the 18th century, it was sung by French peasants celebrating the Nativity. Later it was translated into English in the mid-1800s. It's known for its joyful "Gloria in excelsis Deo" refrain. The hymn proclaims the angels' announcement of Christ's birth and invites worshipers to join heaven's song of praise for the Savior born in Bethlehem.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - - -

- - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Ruth 2:4

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

This ancient prayer was appointed for the Feast of the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, which has been celebrated since the fourth century. The little boys of Bethlehem praised God by dying for Christ, that is, in the place of Christ.

Be seated

Children's Devotion

The kindness of the Lord is seen in sending a Savior to redeem those who turn away from him.

First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.
⁸He said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me";
and so he became their Savior.
⁹In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 82 exposes the failure of human rulers—whom God calls "gods" because of their authority—to judge justly and protect the weak, warning that all earthly power stands under God's judgment and will fall if it is abused. Read alongside the gospel lesson, Matthew 2:13–18, and echoed by Martin Luther, the psalm points to Jesus, the true and eternal Son, who enters a world of unjust rulers and fulfills what they could not by establishing God's righteous reign for the vulnerable and oppressed.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 82



1 The lords of earth are in the hands of
2 "How long will you be - tray the cause of
3 "De - fend the poor from those who place no
4 Though mind - less and cor - rupt they prove, and
5 They proud - ly boast a god - like birth; in

God who reigns on high; with - in their coun - cils
jus - tice in the land? You let the wick - ed
lim - it on their greed; sup - port the weak and
tread the peo - ple down, though earth's foun - da - tions
death, like men, they fall. A - rise, O God, and



there he stands with ev - er - watch - ful eye.
 flout the laws and pros - per by your hand.
 fa - ther - less and res - cue those in need."
 all re - move, still God is on his throne.
 judge the earth and rule the na - tions all!

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

Redeemed by God's true Son, we can call God our "Father."

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Let All Together Praise Our God
Christian Worship 355

Nikolaus Herman (1480-1561) wrote this hymn and melody in 1554 (eight years after Martin Luther's death). Herman was an exceptional organist and choir director. He wrote over two hundred hymns for children. In this hymn Herman directs our attention to how the Son of God took on human flesh to win our salvation.

Sermon

Matthew 2:13-18

God saves his Son from an early death. God's plan was to save the world by having his Son die on the cross when the time had fully come.

"Out of Egypt, at Just the Right Time, God Called His Son"

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.” (NIV)

My Christian Life - God Called His Son //

Christ the Savior is born, and through his life, God brings us into the family. He gives us the rights of redeemed sons and daughters, the privileges of inheritance. Because of this, in thanks, I can ...

- Obey God promptly this week in one clear area where I already know what Scripture says but have been delaying or hesitating.
- Reflect on God’s past faithfulness, writing down or texting myself on my phone one time when God acted “at just the right time” in my life.
- Pray daily for trust in God’s timing, especially about one situation for a family member or friend where I feel anxious, impatient, or uncertain.
- Other: _____

Stand

Part Three of the Athanasian Creed focuses on the incarnation of Jesus. This creed is a confession of faith of the Christian church that seems to have originated in the West around the fifth century.

Confession of Faith

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation that one faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;

and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one: one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

for just as the rational soul and flesh is one human being, so God and man is one Christ. He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer for the New Year

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

Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Increase our commitments 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 may follow.

Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to reflect earnestly on the brevity of our lives and on the immensity of your goodness and mercy as revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. Help us to begin 2026 trusting in the name of your Son, eagerly sharing him with others and walking in the way of his peace.

Amen.

Offering

The members of Our Redeemer have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. **If you are a guest with us this morning**, we are so happy you're here! Please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. For those who wish to give a gift, you can place an offering in the **offering plate** located near the doors where you entered church today. A plate will be there as you depart today. You may also **scan the QR code** to the right with your smartphone's camera to be redirected to a page where you can give an offering. While the members of Our Redeemer support this ministry with their gifts, we understand that you might want to learn more about us before you choose to do the same.

Offering



Connect Card



We would greatly appreciate it, however, if you would fill out a **Welcome/Connect Card** (located in the rack in front of you) and place it in the offering plate following the service. You could also let us know you were here today by filling out a card online by **scanning the QR code** to the left.

In the Prayer of the Church, the congregation acts as Christ's body on earth, lifting prayers for the world, the church, the suffering, and the dying, trusting that the Spirit intercedes for us.

In offering money as an expression of worship, we are responding to God's claim on our lives and giving him a portion of what he has in fact given us.

Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Christian Worship 339

This traditional Polish Christmas carol dates from at least the 1600s. Translated into English in 1920, it reflects the deep, devotional piety of Polish Christmas traditions, especially their strong emphasis on the humility of Christ's birth. The melody is a lively Polish folk tune, often associated with dance rhythms, which creates a striking contrast between musical joy and the text's reverent wonder. This combination of a gentle adoration of the Christ child paired with exuberant praise has made the hymn a favorite in Christmas services around the world.

Prayer

O Lord God, heavenly Father, you allowed your dear Son, Jesus the Christ, to become a stranger and a temporary resident in Egypt for our sakes, and led him safely home. We ask you never to forsake your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled to serve you constantly; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

All of our requests, all of our prayers, all of our needs are summed up in the prayer that our Savior, Jesus Christ, taught us to pray. See Matthew 6:9-13.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

In the blessing, God acts through his Word and sends his people into the world under his favor and protection.

Blessing

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the gospel.

Amen!

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen!

Closing Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night
Christian Worship 337

This cherished Christmas carol, "Silent Night," was composed for the 1818 Christmas Eve service by Joseph Mohr, an assistant priest near Salzburg, Austria, inspired by a late-night baptism in a poor woodcutter's cottage that mirrored the humble birth of Christ in Bethlehem's stable. Mohr entrusted the poem to his friend and organist, Franz Gruber, who quickly penned a gentle two-part melody, enabling the pair to sing it as a poignant offering in worship that night.

Acknowledgments

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Attendance

Sunday Morning Worship (December 21) - 42
Sunday Morning Bible Study (December 21) - 22
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (December 24) - 52
Christmas Day Festival Service (December 25) - 40

Our Redeemer News

Upcoming Bible Studies at Our Redeemer

December 28, 11:00am - Starting Point - Christianity 101



Managing God's Gifts To Us

Managing God's Gifts to Us

The arrival of the Savior on this earth didn't eradicate evil from our world. Instead, a powerful plot to murder him arose. But our all-knowing and all-powerful Savior God was still in control, leading our Savior and his earthly parents to safety. As we ponder his saving activity in our lives, we have the same assurance that he watches over us for our good as we make daily decisions to glorify him with all we say and do. To help be kept informed of finances to carry out our ministry plans at Our Redeemer, here is the recent offerings report.

	Last Week	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Actual Offerings	\$4,540	\$10,605	\$151,696
Budgeted Offerings	\$2,600	\$7,800	\$136,915
Difference	\$1,940	\$2,805	\$14,781

This Week at Our Redeemer

Sunday	December 28	9:30am	Sunday Worship
		11:00am	Sunday Bible Hour
Thursday	January 1		Happy New Year!
Sunday	January 4	9:30am	Sunday Worship (Lord's Supper)

About Us

Our Mission

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has been serving the Santa Barbara community since 1968. As people who have been redeemed through faith in Jesus Christ, our mission is to: **Grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; **Encourage** one another; and **Proclaim** what we have seen and heard.



Our Contact Information

770 Vala Drive
Santa Barbara, California 93111
(805) 967-1128
orlcsb.net

Our Ministry

Sunday Worship: 9:30am
Sunday Online Broadcast available at our YouTube channel.
Bible Study: Sundays at 11:00am; Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Our Pastor

Pastor Daniel Schroeder
pastor.orlcsb@gmail.com
(619) 852-2440

Our Church Body

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other 1,200 plus churches of our Wisconsin Synod and 33 other church bodies around the world of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).



Let us know you were here!

