

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 20, 2020

*And the angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found
favor with God."*

Luke 1:30



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1822 East Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

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OUR MISSION

“The Our Redeemer church family exists to **welcome** people to faith;
help people **grow** in the faith that works in real life;
and **serve** our community and the world together in **Jesus’** name.”

GUESTS AND MEMBERS – WELCOME TO OUR REDEEMER

We’re happy that you’ve joined us in worship, especially if you are a visitor with us.
We pray that the Lord who led you here would lead you into a time of knowing Him better,
trusting in Him more, and growing deeper in His love as He places His Word
and cross before your eyes, ears, and hearts.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE

Please see an usher for assistance with these items.

COVID-19 Reminder

As ministry opportunities sponsored by Our Redeemer continue to resume onsite and elsewhere, the leadership of our congregation recognizes the new challenges that exist when gathering together. Below is a reminder to consider before participating in any worship service or activity:

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people. We are doing everything we can to be compliant with all regulations and ensure your safety. We have put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but we cannot guarantee that you or family members will not become infected with COVID-19.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” *LSB 352 v. 1, 2, 4*

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of

kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Based on Psalm 89

P: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

C: **Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

P: If his children forsake My law and do not walk according to My rules, if they violate My statutes and do not keep My commandments,

C: **Then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes.**

P: Mighty God, the enemy of sin has outwitted us.

C: **We have sinned against You. We have broken Your word. Forgive us.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

ABSOLUTION

SERVICE OF THE WORD

EPISTLE READING

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Sermon Notes and Additional References

“Impossible” situations:

- Hawaii
- Health
- Financial
- Household

Mary’s “Impossible” situation

“But God is at work precisely in these places where the _____ seems _____ . Our calling is to join Him in what He is _____

— to make _____ - _____ — what.... he has already _____.”

- Andy Crouch, *Culture Making*

Not even a saying is impossible for God.

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” *(Luke 2:15)*

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. *(Luke 2:19)*

Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; *(Luke 2:29)*

God’s Possible:

- Health
- Financial
- Household
- Hawaii

God brings all our _____ together into His _____ through His Son, our Savior, this Christmas season and always.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

HOLY COMMUNION ... Because we believe Jesus' word that in communion He gives us His body and blood, forgives our sins, and strengthens our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we welcome to communion those

- * who are part of God's family through baptism;
- * who are growing by the power of the Holy Spirit in true faith in Jesus as their savior;
- * who are truly repentant and sorrowful for their sins; and
- * who intend by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend their lives.

If you feel your relationship with God is not of this nature, you may still receive a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms), rather than communing to your spiritual harm. For those communing, both wine and grape juice are available.

(Pastor and an Elder will bring communion to the pews beginning on the east outside aisle followed by the center and then west outside aisle. Please remain seated.)

CLOSING BLESSING

Based on Psalm 89 and Numbers 6:24-26

P: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

C: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

P: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,

C: Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

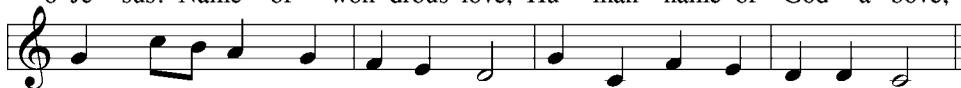
P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” *LSB 900 v. 1, 2, 4, 6*



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child
6 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Hu - man name of God a - bove;



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
When the cup of hu - man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.
Plead - ing on - ly this, we flee Help - less, O our God, to Thee.

Weekly Worship Meditations and Preparation Thoughts

For meditation from Sunday's worship: Read Luke 1:26-38

- Pray about some of those aspects of life where the “impossible seems absolute” that God might show you how you can “join Him in what He is already doing.”
- Reflect on Luke 1:30 this week by putting the verse somewhere you will see it throughout the week.

For preparation for Christmas Eve: Read Matthew 1:1-25

- Where do you see darkness?
- Where does Matthew depict the light breaking through?

For preparation for next Sunday: Read Galatians 3:23-4:7

- How do you most long for God's healing, leading, and comforting?
- What aspect of Paul's analogy to the father and son is most striking to you?

Serving Us Today

Pastor - Rev. Peter Weeks

Director of Youth and Family Ministry - Arlyn Meyer

Pianist - Tracy Holloway

Elders	8:00 am	Danny Kiedaisch (212-0504)
	10:30 am	Mike Mounce (530-0940)
Ushers	8:00 am	Ron Lund (Lead) and Mike Hathaway
	10:30 am	Kevin Holmes (Lead) and Pam Fuller
Altar Guild	8:00 am	Doris Davenport

Altar Flowers

*The flowers on the altar are sponsored by Les and Tracy Holloway
in celebration of Matthew's 18th birthday on December 18th
and Andrew's 24th birthday on December 24th.*

Acknowledgments

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