

PRINTED BULLETIN COVER  
CHRISTMAS EVE

# **OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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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.*

CHRISTMAS EVE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379 v. 1

I O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,  
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

INVOCATION

*Based on Isaiah 9*

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

C: **Amen.**

P: In the still of the night, when all was dark and silent,

C: **The Light of the world was born in Bethlehem.**

P: To us a Child is born!

C: **To us a Son is given!**

P: The government will rest on His shoulders and He will be called...

C: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!**

## CONFESSION

*Based on Psalm 110 and 1 John 4*

P: The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.

**C: Rule in the midst of your enemies!**

P: Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments;

**C: From the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.**

P: We have failed to love one another and abide in You.

**C: We need Your mercy for our sins. Bring us back to Your light.**

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

## HYMN OF CONFESSION

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*LSB 361 v. 4*

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## ABSOLUTION

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

## EPISTLE READING

*1 John 4:7-16*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

## GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 1:18-25*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

## 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.**

“Nativity at Night”  
By Geertgen tot Sint Jans



*Year: 1490; Public Domain*

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.  
*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

## SERMON

## “Jesus’ Light”

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon Notes and Additional References

## Darkness:

- Survival
- Workplace
- Household

## God’s Family in Darkness:

- Nation
- Community
- Joseph

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. (Matthew 2:7)

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” (John 11:28)

Light of the World:

This tiny \_\_\_\_\_ overwhelms the \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the whole \_\_\_\_\_ world that night.

Painting

God brings \_\_\_\_\_ to things you can't see but God \_\_\_\_\_ ....

His \_\_\_\_\_ spreads to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Serve ... in Jesus' Name.

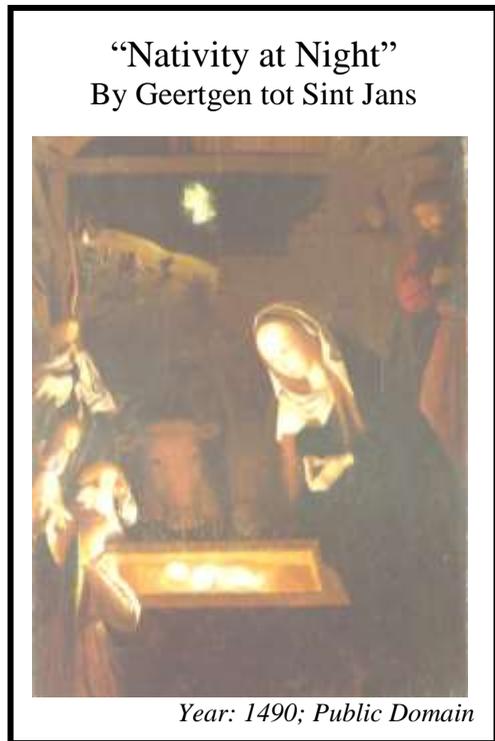
- Household
- Workplace

## 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



## GLORIA

## “Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368 v. 1

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

*Refrain*  
 Glo - - - - ri - a  
 in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -  
 - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## 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.)*

## THANKSGIVING

P: O Lord, You came to us as a child, laid in a manger.

**C: You have come close to us...in this place...in this meal...with Your body and Your blood.**

P: Fill us with the joy of Your presence.

**C: Remain with us, O Christ, and lead us to shine Your burning light in every dark corner of this world.**

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*Please turn on your battery powered tea light candle*

P: On that first Christmas, when the angels appeared to the shepherds,

**C: The glory of the Lord shone all around them.**

P: When Christ was born,

**C: The glory of the Lord was revealed to all the world.**

P: On this Christmas Eve,

**C: The glory of the Lord is all around us.**

P: We see His glory, in the glow of the candles,

**C: In the words of Holy Scripture that illuminate our lives.**

P: From John 1:1-5, 14: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: We see His glory, in the faces of those we love,

**C: In the quiet beauty of this night,**

P: In the gathering together of people,

**C: To celebrate and sing about His birth, as the angels did so long ago.**

CANDLELIGHT HYMN

“Silent Night”

*LSB 363 v. 1, 3*

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,**

**Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.**

**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,**

**Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light,**

**Radiant beams from Thy holy face,**

**With the dawn of redeeming grace,**

**Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

## CLOSING BLESSING

P: Jesus, You are the light of the world no darkness can overcome.

**C: You came to share Your grace and truth with us.**

P: Jesus, You are the Son of God.

**C: You came to make us part of Your eternal family.**

P: Jesus help us to shine with Your light,

**C: Share Your love and speak Your truth to the world You came to save.**

P: May the grace of God the Father who gave His Son, the love of Jesus who came to save you, and the power of the Holy Spirit who guides us bless and keep you this Christmas and always.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### “Joy to the World”

LSB 387 v. 1



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

*Notice as you leave ...*

*The light goes out in a flood but spreads as tiny lights leave in many different directions. Like a glowing candle, each Christian takes the light of God's awesome love with them.*

*Go and be Jesus' light in the world. Know that others who see that love and light and hear the story you share can follow it to Jesus.*

Reflection questions from this worship: Read Matthew 1:18-25

-Is there someone with whom you may want to share the tea light from tonight or a verse or a prayer?

-Pray about an area of life where God might shine His light that breaks the darkness.

# *Christmas Poinsettias 2020*

*The legend surrounding the poinsettias (Flower of the Holy Night), is several centuries old. A small girl, Pepita, had no gift to take to church on Christmas Eve to present to the Christ child. Because her cousin Pedro suggested she take a humble gift, she picked weeds from the roadside. At the altar, a miracle transformed the weeds into beautiful flowers. Like this little girl, out of love for the Christ child the following people have given flowers to adorn our chancel.*

**Roland and Alice Block**

*For God's many blessings*

**Gerry and Linda Christman**

*For God's many blessings*

**Doris Davenport**

*In loving memory of Roy Davenport*

**Mike and Nancy Hathaway**

*In loving memory of Ralph and Stella Westfall and Marlin Hathaway*

**Jeff, Connie, Tayler, and Tanner Kuenneth**

*In loving memory of Jim and Doris Kuenneth and Wayne Barcus*

**Gary and Judy Magnuson**

*In honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 19<sup>th</sup>.*

**The Tuttle Family**

*For God's many blessings*

*If you purchased a poinsettia,  
you may take it home following 7:00 pm worship tonight  
or during the following week.*

*Serving Us Today*

**Pastor** - Rev. Peter Weeks

**Director of Youth and Family Ministry** - Arlyn Meyer

**Organist** - Trudy Rowold

**Elder**                      Danny Kiedaisch                      (212-0504)

**Altar Guild**

11:30 am      Doris Davenport

5:00 pm        Kris Boerger

7:00 pm        Nancy Kiedaisch

*Altar Flowers*

*The flowers on the altar are sponsored by Gary and Judy Magnuson  
in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 19<sup>th</sup>.*

**Acknowledgments**

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