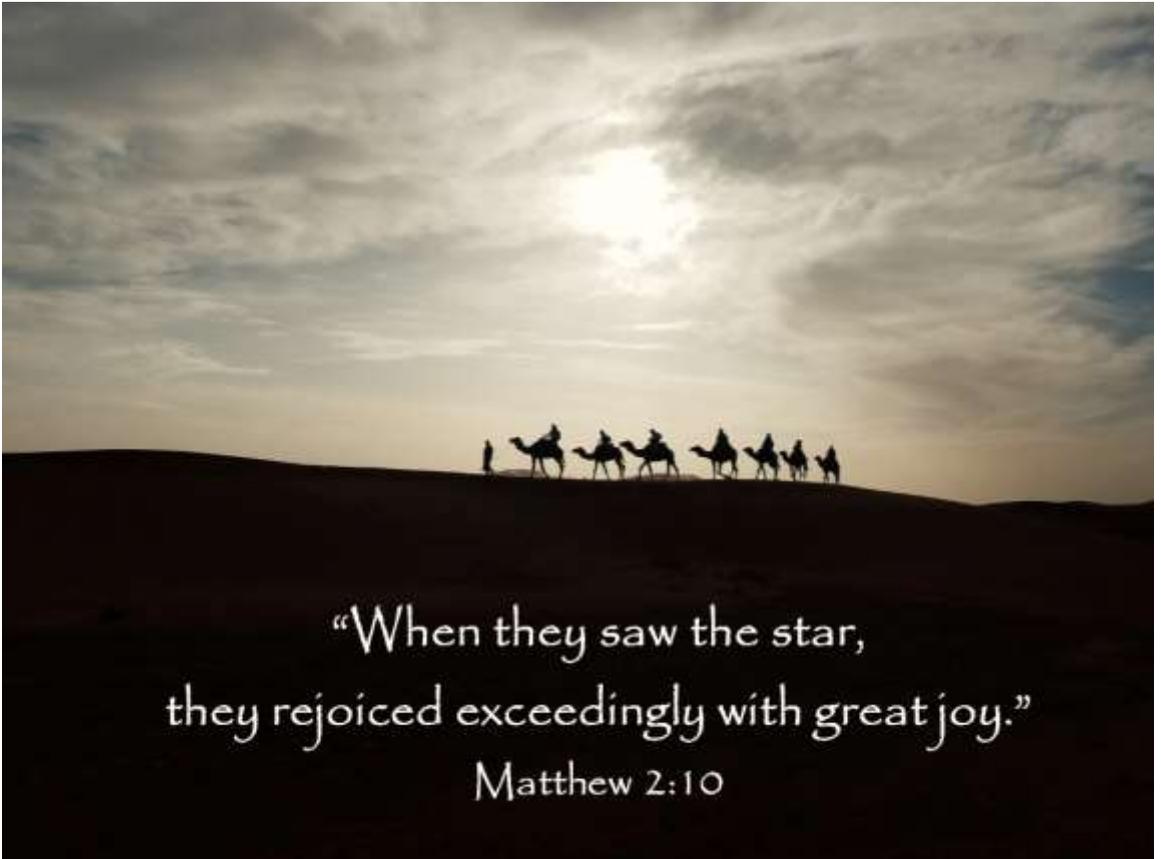


OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 3, 2021



“When they saw the star,
they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”

Matthew 2:10

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1822 East Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

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Website: www.OurRedeemerLCMS.net

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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.

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” *LSB 395 v. 1, 4*



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!
not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas -
Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic - to - rious,
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing



Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

Based on Psalm 72

P: Give the king Your justice, O God,

C: And Your righteousness to the royal son!

P: May he judge Your people with righteousness,

C: And Your poor with justice!

P: King of kings, we have failed to live as we should.

C: Our sin deserves Your judgment. Have pity on us. Forgive us.

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

ABSOLUTION

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

“God’s Creative Way”

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Notes and Additional References

Cultures Coming Together

Responses:

Copying—Genesis 27:39-40

Condemn—Matthew 2:16-18

God’s Creative Way

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. *(Matthew 2:22)*

For so was it commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘You shall neither eat bread nor drink water nor return by the way that you came.’ *(1 Kings 13:9)*

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. *(Exodus 13:21)*

“So do you want to make culture? ... Find friends and form a family who are willing to see _____ at work in one another's lives, who can discern together which gifts and which crosses each has been called to bear. ... Find some _____ in the wild and wonderful world beyond church doors. And then, together, _____
_____.” - Andy Crouch

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 72 and Numbers 6:24-26

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

C: Who alone does wondrous things.

P: Blessed be His glorious name forever;

C: May the whole earth be filled with His glory!

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

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

LSB 397 v. 1-3



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Weekly Worship Meditations and Preparation Thoughts

For meditation from Sunday's worship: Read Matthew 2:1-12

-Who in your household sees grace at work in your life and vice versa?

-What are some ways your household can come alongside the powerless?

For preparation for next Sunday: Read Romans 6:1-11

-Are there some areas of life in which you feel “buried?”

-In which areas of life is God making you most alive?

Serving Us Today

Pastor - Rev. Peter Weeks

Organist - Rhoda Kolbus

Elders	8:00 am	Jeff Kuenneth	(533-5844)
	10:30 am	Mike Mounce	(530-0940)
Ushers	8:00 am	Larry Rowold (Lead) and Mark Soukup	
	10:30 am	Steve Sewell (Lead) and Greg Johnson	
Altar Guild	8:00 am	John and Julie Nikolanci	

Altar Flowers

*The flowers on the altar are sponsored by Doris Davenport
in celebration of her grandson, Hunter's 11th birthday on January 7th.*

Acknowledgments

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