



AND WHEN IN TIME TO COME YOUR SON ASKS YOU,  
'WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?' YOU SHALL SAY TO HIM,

**'By a strong hand the Lord  
brought us out of Egypt,  
from the house of slavery.'**

EXODUS 13:14

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## **First Sunday after Christmas**

December 26, 2021

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

Prospect Heights, IL

Office: 847-537-4430

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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*Because Online Communion is not something we practice in the LCMS,  
please contact the Church Office to receive Individual Communion from your pastor.*

## PREPARED FOR HEAVEN!

### AS WE GATHER

Are you prepared for heaven? Admittedly, this is an odd question when we are celebrating Jesus' birth. Yet, Jesus was born to die to save His people from their sins. As Simeon held the Christ Child, he couldn't help but say, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word," while also telling Mary, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed." That opposition eventually brought about His death on a cross. Yet, Jesus was born to die and rise to life again so that all who believe in Him might live! That is the best Christmas gift ever.

## PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN "NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE"

#386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to Thee.  
3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth      Poor in a man - ger lies;  
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,      O pure and ho - ly Child;  
Death was reign - ing o'er us      Through sin and van - i - ty  
Where the an - gels sing - ing      With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth      The sun in yon - der skies.  
Through Thy grace and mer - it,      Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
Till He o - pened for us      A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing      In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to Thee!      Draw me un - to Thee!  
May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!  
Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

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### INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.*

- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You give us through Jesus. Help us to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Your Son. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.

**P** Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained servant of our newborn King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Thank You, Jesus! Amen

## INTROIT

*LSB 387; Psalm 98:1–4; Isaiah 52:10*

### 387 JOY TO THE WORLD

*st. 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.

Text and tune: Public domain

### PSALM 98:1

**P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

**C** His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

### 387 JOY TO THE WORLD

*st. 2*

2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -

ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Text and tune: Public domain

**PSALM 98:2-3**

- P** The LORD has made known His salvation;
- C** He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
  
- P** He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
- C** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**387 JOY TO THE WORLD**

st. 3

3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

Text and tune: Public domain

**ISAIAH 52:10**

- P** The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
- C** and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**387 JOY TO THE WORLD**

st. 4

4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

### PSALM 98:1, 4

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

### KYRIE

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of our newborn King, which is beyond our understanding, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our salvation from Christ, the Prince of Peace, for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the Holy Christian Church, for we have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE “A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER”

#383



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,  
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,  
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,  
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.  
Re - joi - ce, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.  
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.  
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . .

<sup>11</sup>“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

*Colossians 3:12–17*

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

<sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE

*Luke 2:30–32*

**P** Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation;

**C** a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.  
Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:22–40*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## HYMN OF THE DAY "WHAT CHILD IS THIS"

#370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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## SERMON – "What Does This Mean?"

### APOSTLES' CREED

**C** 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God and all people according to their needs.

Wonderful Counselor, we praise and thank You for guiding us with the Word of Christ, which dwells richly in us. Bless all pastors and teachers of Your Word, that they teach and admonish Your people with all of Your wisdom so that whatever we do, in word or deed, we do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. O God of our salvation,

**L** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Mighty God, You created this world and everything in it through Your powerful Word and still take care of it. Continue to watch over and work through all who lead and serve our nation, state, and local communities. Lead and guide all first responders and members of the military as they carry out their duties to protect and serve. O God of our salvation,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Everlasting Father, You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We ask for Your encouragement, healing, and care for all who are struggling with their health, *especially Hedy, Jean, Kathleen, Ray, Sallyann, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Jean, Jen, John, Leah, Rod, Pastor Jim*. Heal the broken hearts of those who grieve the loss of those close to them. O God of our salvation,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Prince of Peace, we praise and thank You for the peace we have in You. Empower us and all of your missionary people to embrace the opportunities You give us to share the gift of Your redemption. O God of our salvation,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our newborn King.

**C** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C** **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.

## BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN “GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”

#388

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## **Weekly Announcements**

### **Wednesday @ NOON Pastor-Led Bible Studies**

Pastor-led Bible Study has resumed on Wednesdays at 12:00 pm online.

**ACTS: A study of Growth in the Church.** This means growth in Christian attitudes, insights, and skills for Christian living. The focus of this course will be the church and the world of our day. The guiding question will be this: *What does the Lord teach us for life today through the book of Acts?* Join us online on Wednesday evenings, 12 pm at <https://Koinonia.ClickMeeting.com/Acts> (or visit there for the recorded sessions).

### **Prayer Request Information:**

If you have a prayer request, please notify Jim Burmeister via text at (847) 343-3798, Phone: (847)934-5963 or via email: [elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org).

### **Email address for Pastor Jim:**

If you would like to send an email to Pastor Jim, please use the following address:

[Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org)

### **Website**

Our website: [ourredeemerprospectheights.org](http://ourredeemerprospectheights.org) contains links for in person worship registration, Livestream online worship, Bible Studies, Bulletins and Monthly News, and Online Giving. Check it often.

### **Sonshine Preschool Update**

We are so happy to say, we had a successful Christmas program with our 24 current students telling the story of Jesus' Birth. We are happy to announce that we have had no sicknesses due to Covid thus far. Please pray with us that we stay healthy the rest of the school year, so that we can stay open to continue to teach Jesus' little children.

### **Poinsettia Orders**

Thank you for your Poinsettia orders! We so appreciate your help with beautifying the Sanctuary during this holiday season.

### **Wheeling Food Pantry Wish List**

The Wheeling Township food pantry is in need of the following items: Beans (White Northern or Cannellini), Carrots, Cream Soups (Cream of Mushroom, Celery and Chicken), Juices (quart size bottles) and Paper Towels. Items need to be dropped off at the Wheeling Township office located at 1616 N Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights. Questions can be directed to Julie Villarreal at 847-259-7730.

### **End of the year donations**

In the event you are considering a special donation before the end of the year, please remember the donation must be received in the Church Office no later than Friday December 31, 2021. Donations received after the 31<sup>st</sup> will count towards 2022 regardless of the date on the envelope or check.

Thank you!

### **Coffee And...**

Please join us for Coffee And... following Worship this morning.

### **Remaining December Schedule**

December 29 - 12:00 pm Adult Bible Study – Online