

## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve December 24, 2020

### As We Gather

Advent has long been a time of preparation, preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Yet the road to Christmas is anything but easy. It twists, it turns, and we meet many strange figures along the way. The Midweek series during this Advent has been presenting a different perspective. We have been hearing “Voices from the Edge.” Prophets cry out in visions. John the Baptizer preaches in the desert. The voices are varied, the places are strange. And... Angels! Angels appear whether you are asleep or awake. One thing is certain: in each encounter, God is preparing us for the celebration of the greatest encounter of all, the birth of Jesus, his Son, our Savior, the Redeemer of the world. As that event is upon us at our Christmas celebration in this service, we hear of that Great Joy for All people that was announced by an Angel!

## PREPARATION

### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

### Welcome

**P** When the eternal God decided to enter human history in the person of His Son, He revealed that His plans turn the world’s ways upside down. The Son of royal David, the One who fulfilled the promises to Abraham, the One who welcomes scandal-ridden sinners into His family, the One who remembers common people but forgets their sins, is born as the Son of Mary, laid in a manger, a borrowed feeding trough. Come and adore Him. The Christ Child was born for you!

### 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the \_angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the \_incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. Refrain

## Prologue

**P** In the beginning was the Word,  
**A** *and the Word was with God,*  
**C** **and the Word was God.**

**P** He was in the beginning with God.  
**A** *All things were made through Him,*  
**C** **and without Him was not any thing made that was made.**

**P** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.  
**A** *The light shines in the darkness,*  
**C** **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.  
**A** *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,*  
**C** **yet the world did not know Him.**

**P** He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.  
**A** *But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name,*  
**C** **He gave the right to become children of God,**

**P** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh  
**A** *nor of the will of man,*  
**C** **but of God.**

**P** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
**A** *and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,*  
**C** **full of grace and truth.**

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

## Collect

**P** Let us pray.

Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Grant us grace to put aside all earthly cares so that we may celebrate His coming among us with holy joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

*sts. 1, ref, 2–4*

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
 Joyful and triumphant!  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
 Come and behold Him  
 Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him,  
 O come, let us adore Him,  
 O come, let us adore Him,  
 Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,  
 Light of Light eternal,  
 Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

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## Confession and Absolution

*Isaiah 9:6*

**P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

**C** **We have resisted His governing; we have followed our own desires.**

**P** His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C** **We have followed other voices of this world and not always relied on Him. We not only sin—we are sinful human beings. Help us, Lord Jesus. Forgive our sins and be the counselor we trust, the God to whom we go, the eternal source of all we need. Give us the peace we so desperately need.**

**P** The Child born to us, the Son given to us, is Jesus, the Son of David, reigning forever; Jesus, the Son of Abraham, who has prepared for us the heavenly promised land; Jesus, the Son of scandal, who shows that we are children of God and heirs of heaven; Jesus, the Son of Joseph, in whose eyes every one of us is remembered even as He forgives all our sins; Jesus, the Son of Mary, whose humble birth reveals that God turns the way of the world upside down to exchange His life for ours. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## WORD

### Kyrie

**P** Lord, have mercy.

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

**P** Christ, have mercy.

**C** **Christ, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, have mercy,

**C** **and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Lord Jesus, who was born in a rented stable to die for us on a wooden cross,  
**give us faith always to see Your servant ways, which overcome the world, save from sin, and conquer death so that we all may enter the heavenly promised land to join the praises of saints and angels in eternity;**

**P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 62:10–12*

<sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates;  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway;  
clear it of stones;  
lift up a signal over the peoples.

<sup>11</sup>Behold, the LORD has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:  
Say to the daughter of Zion,  
“Behold, your salvation comes;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.”

<sup>12</sup>And they shall be called The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the LORD;  
and you shall be called Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Great O Antiphon

**P** The Lord comes to save us, as we pray in this Great O Antiphon.

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the Anointed for the nations and their Savior:

**C** Come and save us, O Lord our God.

## Epistle

*Titus 3:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently

The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

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## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:1–20*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

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

## 387 Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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## Sermon

### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the Church around the world, ourselves, and all people in their various circumstances.

Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people's hearts and minds

to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Son of David,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health, and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Son of Abraham,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Jesus, Light of the world, open the hearts of all who are burdened by their scandals and other past sins. Surround them with faithful people to tell them about Your coming in human history to give Yourself for them. Protect and guide all law enforcement personnel, first responders, health care workers, and counselors. Help them balance justice, mercy, and compassionate care so that many may have their lives repaired and hope restored. Son of scandal,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether dispossessed, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Remember not their sins and iniquities but give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Son of Joseph,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught, and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Son of Mary,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## SACRAMENT

### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### Proper Preface

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Thanks be to You, heavenly Father, for at the appointed time You sent Your Son, born of the Virgin Mary, into

the family of Abraham that we might become heirs of the heavenly promised land and of the Son of David, reigning eternally. In order to abolish death, break the bonds of sin, and defeat the age-old enemy, He was obedient to death, even death on the cross. For His sake, You have remembered Your ancient promises of forgiveness and grace to even the least among us.

Gather into one, we pray, all Your holy people, that we may meet together at the eternal banquet to praise Your name in joyful song. To You, with the Spirit and Your Son, be all glory in the Church, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### 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.

### Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Distribution

### Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1–3

- 1 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.
  
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
  
- 3 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.

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### Benediction

- P** The blessing of almighty God—the Father, who kept His promise and sent His Son into the world; the ✠ Son, who was born as one of us to die in our place; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in our hearts to rejoice at the news of Jesus' birth—bless you and keep you in Christmas peace, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

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