



## **Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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# **Fourth Week in Advent** **December 18th, 2021**



How *great*  
Thou Art



## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **IS CELEBRATED AT OUR 5:30PM SATURDAY AND 9:00AM SUNDAY SERVICE**

Oneness at communion presupposes oneness in doctrine. For this reason we practice close communion, and ask guests desiring to commune to speak with the pastor before the service. To those communicants with dietary needs we offer gluten free wafers.

### **AS WE GATHER**

Our world is filled with turmoil, strife, contention. Every time it seems that our nation or even our own lives are at peace, again something disrupts it. Peace is as elusive as a slippery eel. The peace we seek cannot come from the powers of the world, nor can it come from anything in our own hearts or our spiritual potential. Real peace comes from what seems like the least promising place: a little town, through the young Virgin. Peace comes from Bethlehem, from where God comes to us. From God's Word. From the Bread of Life in Holy Communion. Real peace comes to us, often beyond our understanding, through the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, through whom God made peace with us by a cross.

### **THE VAJDA HYMN SERVICE**

#### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Elder of the Day

#### **EXPLANATION & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

#### **OPENING HYMN**

*"Arise, O Christian People"*

LSB 354

#### **INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

#### **OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.

People: **We thank You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord's mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

People: **We adore You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.

People: **We praise You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.

People: **We worship You, O Lord!**

#### **KYRIE**

*(Sung to the melody "Amazing Grace")*

*Tune LSB 744*

Look down in mercy on us, Lord,  
Receive our prayers and praise,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,  
For your amazing grace.

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

*A time of silence is observed.*

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.

**People: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## GLORIA

*(Sung to the melody "Hark the Herald Angels Sing")*

*Tune LSB 380*

1. Angels, sing, and earth, reply:  
"Glory be to God on high!"  
God who flung the stars in space,  
God who formed the human race,  
God the mind and God the cause,  
God the source of nature's laws,  
God of wisdom, power, and love,  
God of gods, all gods above.  
Angels, sing, and earth, reply:  
"Glory be to God on high!"

2. Angels, sing, and earth, reply:  
"Glory be to God on high!"  
God who saw your creatures fall,  
Loved them still, and loved them all,  
Gave your only Son to prove  
What is mercy, what is love;  
And the Spirit, given free,  
Recreates your family.  
Angels, sing, and earth, reply:  
"Glory be to God on high!"

## SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Into this world of turmoil, You, O Lord, bring peace.

**People: Let the peace that calmed the troubled heart of Mary so rule in our hearts and minds**

Pastor: that by Your power we may all become peacemakers

**People: in our homes, in our community, and in our church;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

‡ WORD ‡

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Deuteronomy 18:15-19*

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** ~ *Read Responsively*

*Psalms 111*

Pastor: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**People: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.**

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

**People: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear Him;

**People: He remembers His covenant forever.**

Pastor: He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

**People: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;**

Pastor: they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

**People: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!**

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

**People: His praise endures forever!**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the ✠ Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**EPISTLE READING**

*Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL READING

*John 1: 19-28*

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## SERMON HYMN

*"Sing Praise to the God of Israel"*

LSB 936

## SERMON

*"The Greatness of Jesus"*

*Philippians 4:4-7*

## CREED

*(Sung to the melody "Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise")*

*Tune LSB 802*

1. Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive  
Their being and blessing, in You we believe  
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all-true,  
Provider and Father, our trust is in You.
2. And You, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,  
True Son of the Father, by angels adored;  
Redeemer incarnate, You paid for our sins,  
And, joined in Your rising, our new life begins.
3. Free Spirit of wisdom, of power and love,  
On us, as on Christ, You descend from above;  
You call us, You cleanse us, You open our eyes,  
You keep us in peace, You restore paradise.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

O Wisdom from on high, grant us peace. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to be peacemakers.

People: **O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings.**

Pastor: Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war.

**People: Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world.**

Pastor: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially . . .*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Pastor: (Special Petitions ending in... "Lord, in Your mercy,")

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Key of David, let Your peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents.

**People: Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends.**

Pastor: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## OFFERING

### ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

## PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## SANCTUS

*(Sung to the melody "Holy, Holy, Holy")*

*Tune LSB 507*

"Holy, Holy, Holy!" all the saints in glory

Fill Your temple with their song around Your golden throne;

"Holy, Holy, Holy!" with them we adore You;

God in three Persons, all in Christ as one.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### AGNUS DEI

(Sung to the melody "My Faith Looks Up to Thee")

Tune LSB 702

Meek, slaughtered Lamb of God,  
You bore the sinner's load  
To buy our peace:  
Now risen and enthroned,  
With life and glory crowned,  
To all the lost and found  
Please grant Your peace.

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

#### HYMN

#### **"O Come, Little Children"**

CM 1

*Words by C. Von Schmidt; Music by J. P. A. Schulz CCLI: # 478703*

1. O come, little children, O come one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small,  
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your redeemer, your joy and delight.
2. He's born in a stable for you and for me,  
Draw near by the bright gleaming Starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels the heavenly child.
3. See Mary and Joseph with love beaming eyes  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies,  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,  
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.
4. Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,  
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;  
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,  
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

#### HYMN

#### **"We Three Kings"**

CM 2

*Words and Music by John H. Hopkins, JR.*

1. We three Kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts, we  
Traverse afar Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star. **Refrain.**

**Refrain: O Star of wonder, Star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.**

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring, to  
crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign. **Refrain.**
3. Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a  
Deity nigh. Prayer and praising all men raising,  
Worship Him, God most high. **Refrain.**

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of  
Gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb. **Refrain.**
5. Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and  
Sacrifice, Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Earth to the heav'ns replies. **Refrain.**

CCLI#: 2908236

**HYMN**

**“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”**

LSB 355

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.  
Thank You, Lord, for the peace that comes to us through Christ’s body and blood. Help us leave this Table so filled with Your peace that it overflows to our homes, our church, and our community; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”**

LSB 934

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**OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**5:30PM SATURDAY**

**Bill Erck**  
Elder  
**Kris Deardoff**  
Organist

**9:00AM SUNDAY**

**Rick Melius**  
Elder  
**Jaxon Schmidt**  
**Tyler Noonan**  
Acolytes  
**Christmas Program Music**  
Organist  
**Jaden Schmidt**  
Sound

**Mike Beyer**  
Congregational Chairman  
**Rick Melius**  
Head Elder