



## **Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*  
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### **Pastor Daniel Deardoff, Sr.**

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# **Christmas Eve**

## **December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

LSB 380

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

Pastor: You have multiplied the nation;

**People: You have increased its joy;**

Pastor: they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest,

**People: as they are glad when they divide the spoil.**

Pastor: For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor,

**People: You have broken as on the day of Midian.**

Pastor: For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood

**People: will be burned as fuel for the fire.**

Pastor: For to us a child is born,

**People: to us a son is given;**

Pastor: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

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

Pastor: Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom,

**People: to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, although “God abides in us and His love is perfected in us,” we sin every day and need the assurance of His forgiveness. Let us go to God, seeking His power to amend our sinful lives.

Lord Jesus, the love of God made manifest among us,

**People: we have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Without Your help we cannot change. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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.**

## HYMN

*“What Child Is This”*

LSB 370

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

People: **Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge;**

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

People: **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORY

*Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 9:6*

Pastor: She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,

People: **To us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

Pastor: for He will save His people from their sins.

People: **To us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

People: **To us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

*Luke 2:1–20*

## HYMN

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

*LSB 361*

Pastor: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

**HYMN**

**“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”**

*LSB 374*

Pastor: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

**HYMN**

**“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”**

*LSB 386*

Pastor: 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.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON HYMN

*“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

LSB 367

SERMON

*“The True Spirit of Christmas”* Matthew 1:18, 1John 4:13

CREED

*The Second Article*

LSB pg. 322

**All: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: God entered human history in the person of Jesus, who experienced all our joys and sorrows. He has promised that our heavenly Father will hear whatever we ask in His name. Let us bring our requests to Him in confident faith.

Wonderful Counselor, we pray that You will give empathy, wisdom, and compassion to all who seek to meet the needs of the people around them, providing food, clothing, and shelter, tending to the sick and injured, and responding to human crises and natural disasters.

**People: Remember, we pray, those with special needs and those known only to You. As You give us opportunity, grant that we may be part of Your answers to their petitions.**

Pastor: Mighty God, whose Word created all things in heaven and on earth, when storms rage, fires spread, or the earth trembles, give courage and skill to those who would provide rescue, relief, and shelter.

**People: Bless those who till the soil and raise crops and all who manage and distribute the world’s bounty, that the hungry be fed, the poor clothed, and the displaced given shelter.**

Pastor: Prince of Peace, use the earthly powers that be to put into positions of authority those who will work for justice within their nations and cooperation across their borders. Give protection and courage to police and first responders in their communities and to armed forces deployed.

**People: Grant that Your Church stand as a beacon in this troubled world to proclaim the Gospel and exhibit loving forgiveness in Your name. Grant that many find the peace they seek in You, our gracious Savior.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **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.

## **COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

**People: 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;**

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

**People: Amen.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*(The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle and gives to the acolytes and elders. They pass the light on to the congregation. Tip only the unlighted candle. Do not tip the lighted candle to avoid dripping the wax! Hold the candles straight up and the wax will not drip. Thank you.)*

Pastor: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the Light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice for the Light of the World has

come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

**People:** **If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

Pastor: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

**People:** **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.** *1 John 1:5-7*

Pastor: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16* O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

**HYMN**

***"Silent Night, Holy Night"***

LSB 363

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 your holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**People:** **Amen! Glory to God in the Highest! And peace to His people on earth!**



*Please join us for our Christmas Day  
worship tomorrow morning at 9:00am*



# Merry Christmas



## OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Ron Stimpson**  
Elders  
**Carter Holmes**  
**Owen May**  
Acolytes

**Mike Beyer**  
Congregational Chairman  
**Marie Rogers**  
Organist

**Rick Melius**  
Head Elder  
**Alyssa Fick**  
Sound