



Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Christmas Day

December 25th, 2020



AS WE GATHER

The world hears a sentimental story, a typical account of an underdog hero who has come to fight against all sorts of wrongs. Today we hear from John the same story but with the revelation that the Child is the Word, that this is no ordinary birth but the Word made flesh, and that this story is not about sentiment but salvation. In the midst of this all is the reality that the world lies in the darkness of sin and death—but not all of it. To those who believe on His name, the light shines and the darkness has not and cannot overcome it. Here is where we are. We see the Word by faith, hear His promise of salvation by faith, live in His light by faith, and rejoice that we are the sons and daughters of God by faith.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

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

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

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, who was born in a rented stable to die for us on a wooden cross,

People: 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;

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

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Now Sing We Now Rejoice”

LSB 386

✠ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Pastor: The LORD has made known his salvation;

People: he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Pastor: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

People: with the lyre and the sound of melody!

Pastor: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

People: make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Pastor: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

People: the world and those who dwell in it!

Pastor: Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD,

People: for he comes to judge the earth.

Pastor: He will judge the world with righteousness,

People: and the peoples with equity.

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.

HYMN

“The First Noel”

CM 3

1. The first noel the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds, in fields as they lay, In fields where they lay Keeping their sheep, On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

2. They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain.*

3. And by the light of that same star, Three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain.*

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, O’er Bethlehem it

took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right
over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain.*

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, Fell rev'rently upon
their knee, And offered there in His presence Their
gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain.*

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 1:1-6

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

LSB 364

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

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

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through Him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“See amid the Winter’s Snow”

LSB 373

SERMON

“A Universal Promise”

Psalm 2:8

NICENE CREED

People: 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 ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- Pastor: 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.
- People: 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.**
- Pastor: Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society.
- People: 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.**
- Pastor: 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.
- People: 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.**
- Pastor: 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.
- People: 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.**
- Pastor: Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down.
- People: 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.**
- Pastor: 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.
- People: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

HYMN

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

LSB 388

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387

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OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Rick Melius

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Carter Holmes

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Acolytes

Mike Beyer

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Rick Melius

Head Elder

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