



Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Advent Midweek Service 2

December 8th, 2021

“The Timeless Beauty of Silent Night”

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ron Stimpson

Elder

Karlee Small

Madison Kopp

Acolytes

Camden Pantekoek

Sound

Mike Beyer

Congregational Chairman

Rick Melius

Head Elder

Marie Rogers

Organist

“WHY DID THE SHEPHERDS QUAKE” (LUKE 2: 8-17)

OPENING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Lift up your heads and open your eyes,

People: **for He is coming.**

Pastor: Who is coming?

People: **The King of glory!**

Pastor: Blessings on Him who comes as King,

People: **who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Pastor: He came as a baby in a manger.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: He came to be our Savior.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: With joy and gladness,

People: we celebrate His coming.
Pastor: He comes to us each day in the promise of His presence.
People: Come, Lord Jesus.
Pastor: Let us open our hearts to Him,
People: and walk in His ways.
Pastor: He will come again to take us to Himself in heaven.
People: Come, Lord Jesus.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we confess that even during the joyful season of Christmas, we spend too much time in fear. We fear we won't get all of our Christmas preparations completed, we fear that You will not supply all of our needs as in the past, and we fear for the future and what it holds.

People: We confess that these fears reflect a lack of faith in Your ability to provide for us and protect us. We ask that you would forgive us for our doubt and take our eyes off of ourselves and lift them to Your throne of grace, where you hear the prayers of your children.

Pastor: God has heard your confession, and He is merciful and full of forgiveness. He takes Your sins and drowns them in the depths of the sea and remembers them no more for Jesus' sake. As a called and ordained servant of the Lord, and by His authority, I forgive you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

HYMN

"Infant Holy, Infant lowly"

LSB 393

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Dear heavenly Father, by the sending of Your Son, Jesus, You kept Your promise to a people long ago. We too thank You that Jesus became like us to save us from our sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. Make us able to live each day waiting for Jesus to come again and to take us to Himself in heaven. Hear us for our Savior's sake. Amen.

✠ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✠

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 *(Read Responsively)*

SECOND READING

Acts 16:25-31

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

“While By Our Sheep”

CM 5

Traditional German Carol; Public Domain

1. While by our sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright. *Refrain.*

Refrain:

**How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, Joy, Joy! Joy, Joy, Joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on High!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on High!**

2. There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today. *Refrain.*
3. There shall the child lie in a stall, this Child who shall redeem us all. *Refrain.*
4. This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill. *Refrain.*

SERMON TEXT

Luke 2:8-17

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

LSB 363 vs. 2

SERMON

“Why Did the Shepherds Quake?”

OFFERING

HYMN

“Welcome to Our World”

CM 09

1. Tears are falling, hearts are breaking;
How we need to hear from God.
You've been promised, we've been waiting.
Welcome, holy Child, welcome holy Child.
2. Hope that You don't mind our manger;
How I wish we would have known.
But long awaited holy Stranger,
Make Yourself at home, please make Yourself at home.
3. Bring Your peace into our violence,
Bid our hungry souls be filled.
Word now breaking Heaven's silence,
Welcome to our world, Welcome to our world.
4. Fragile finger sent to heal us,
Tender brow prepared for thorn,
Tiny heart whose blood will save us,
Unto us is born, Unto us is born.

5. Wrap our injured flesh around You,
breathe our air and walk our sod.
Rob our sin and make us holy,
perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God.

Welcome to our world.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear Physicians of our souls, whose very glance brings healing and salvation, make your face shine on us.

People: **We are like sheep who do not know how to make our way through the hidden perils and dangerous places of this world. We seek your guiding and gladly follow where you lead.**

Pastor: Help us to know and to believe that when we trust our knowledge, our judgement, and our skills, we quickly go astray. We forget our goal and lose direction.

People: **So lead us like a gentle shepherd. Guide us step by step and bring us safely home.**

Pastor: Make your kingdom come among us, and through us let it reach into every corner of the sphere on which we live till everyone knows of your kingship and your holy laws.

People: **Your coming into our hearts and lives creates hope and strength and goodness within us. Provide your blessing that these may grow and bear full fruit, and nurture your royal reign within us and through us.**

Pastor: To you, Shepherd, King, be honor and glory and obedience.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Once He Came in Blessing"

LSB 333