



REDEEMER

HELP, HOPE, HOME, IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

December 15, 2019

The Third Sunday of Advent

Redeemer Lutheran Church-LCMS
Charleston, WV

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

One Deerwalk Lane, Charleston, WV 25314

A congregation of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Reverend Frank C. Ruffatto, Pastor

Mr. Ed Booten, Music Director

Mrs. Kelli Ruffatto, Communications Director

WORSHIP... All worship begins with God. He is our Creator and He desires us to be in relationship with Him. He reaches out to us, and, in worship, draws us closer to Him. Jesus whom we come to know through Word and Sacrament, is the way God reveals Himself to us. And more, it is in His name that we approach the throne of the Almighty. In worship the believer through Jesus Christ, reaches out to his heavenly Father. As the Holy Spirit works through Word and Sacrament, we become aware of our need for God, and seek fellowship with God in the company of fellow believers.

LUTHERAN... Originally a derogatory term for those who reminded the Church that it is **“by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourself; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”** (*Ephesians 2:8-9*) Now, we embrace Lutheran to mean we are disciples of Jesus Christ who agree with Dr. Luther’s teaching from the Bible as summarized in his Small Catechism.



...DECENTLY AND IN ORDER... (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:40)

Whether the service is closer to what some would call “traditional” or others “contemporary” - whether we are using hymns that may even pre-date the Reformation or music written in our lifetimes - there is an order to worship comprised of three parts: the Service of Preparation, the Service of the Word, and the Service of the Sacrament. Together, these three sections make up the whole worship order.

HELP, HOPE, HOME, IN THE BODY OF CHRIST... If you have no church home of your own, we encourage you to get to know us and we invite you to participate in the other activities here. And more, we cordially invite you to join God’s family here at Redeemer.

Explanation for the parts of the service come from *Worship Is Celebrating As Lutherans*, by Walter M. Schoedel & David W. Christian, (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, 1990) Worship Service adapted from “Divine Service Setting One,” *Lutheran Service Book* (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, 2006).

THE DIVINE SERVICE

THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

PRELUDE

O God of God, O Light of Light

Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]



O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. [Refrain]

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross  may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

 In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

 **Amen.**

Matthew 28: 19b; [18: 20]

CANDLE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT: JOY

P Today is the Third Sunday in Advent – a season, a time of joyous anticipation. And so, as we celebrate the first advent of Christ, coming near to us in the manger, we are thankful for His second advent – coming near to us in His Word and Sacraments; and, we have our hope in the peace of His final advent, when our joy will be complete as He comes to bring us home.

Advent is a time of joyous anticipation.

C Let us sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!

(Psalm 147:7)

P The Lord does not take delight in the “strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

C but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.

(cf. Psalm 147:10-11)

P We seek joy for the world. We long for joy for the outcasts, the broken hearted, the wounded, the humble, the wicked. We long for joy where the obstacles of this world stand in the way of the hope and peace which only Christ can bring. We long for joy where boredom and fear and lethargy stunt growth and keep us from experiencing God’s grace and forgiveness.

C We cry to the Lord in our trouble, and He delivers us from our distress. He leads us by a straight way until we reach His holy city.

(cf. Psalm 107:6-7)

P As we light the candle of Joy, let us remember that God is the God of Joy. Let us remember God’s joyful deliverance that has come in the Word made flesh, Jesus our Christ. Let us joyfully anticipate God’s promise of deliverance while clinging to Jesus’ promise that ‘he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul He fill with good things.’

(cf. Psalm 107:9)

The candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy are lit.

Song Leaders: Lead us to Your light, lead us out of darkness Lead us to Your light;
Come Jesus, come.

Choir: Lead us to Your light, lead us out of darkness Lead us to Your light;
Come Jesus, come.

All: Lead us to Your light, lead us out of darkness Lead us to Your light;
Come Jesus, come.

P Let us pray... Come Holy Spirit,

C fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love and the joyous anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus, the light of the world. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, instructs the hearts of the faithful grant that by the same Holy Spirit we would thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works as He satisfies our longing souls. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION


- Ⓐ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- Ⓒ **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1: 8–9

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- Ⓐ Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Ⓒ **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.**

The Leader faces the congregation:

- Ⓐ 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.

[John 20: 19– 23]

- Ⓒ **Amen.**

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4: 22

- Ⓐ The Lord be with you.
- Ⓒ **And also with you.**
- Ⓐ Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day is spoken.

- Ⓒ **Amen**

ANTHEM

Lift Up Your Heads

Larry Shockley

THE READING OF GOD'S WRITTEN WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 4:1-6

After the reading:

Ⓜ This is the Word of the Lord.

Ⓒ Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Peter 1:16-19

After the reading:

Ⓜ This is the Word of the Lord.

Ⓒ Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Ⓟ The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 5th chapter.

Ⓒ Glory to You, O Lord.

After the reading:

Ⓟ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Ⓒ Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

See announcement booklet insert for melody

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.

In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

SERMON

Healing Light

TITHES & OFFERINGS

(Malachi 3:6-10; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

OFFERTORY

'Twas on the Moon of Wintertime
The Huron Carol
Jean de Brébeuf, English text; French folk tune

THE APOSTLES CREED

☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He
descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2: 1– 4]

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:7-13; 1 Chronicles 29:11-13)

C Our Father which 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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

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 (†) 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 (†) blood, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

You satisfy the hungry heart
With gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
The bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
They know and heed his voice;
So when You call Your fam'ly, Lord,
We follow and rejoice. [Refrain]

With joyful lips we sing to You
Our praise and gratitude
That You should count us worthy, Lord,
To share this heav'nly food. [Refrain]

Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ outpoured?

Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
Our oneness in the Lord? [Refrain]

The myst'ry of Your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell. [Refrain]

You give Yourself to us, O Lord;
Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in Your name
In truth and charity. [Refrain]

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From All That Dwell Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Whom with the Spirit we adore
Forever and forevermore:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Public domain

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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TABLE THANKSGIVING

P Now, may this the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you in the one true faith unto life everlasting as you go in His peace and with His Spirit.

G **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

Ⓟ We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Ⓒ Amen

BENEDICTION

(Numbers 6:24-26)

Ⓟ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and (†) give you His peace.

Ⓒ Amen.

RECESSIONAL

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace; Serve Your King!

Ⓒ Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Sleepers, Awake

arr. by Robert Lau

CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper was commanded by Jesus Himself. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25) It is celebrated at this altar in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. We are also called upon to examine ourselves before participating in this holy meal. (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-29; Mathew 26:28; John 6:53-58)

Q. Do you acknowledge your sins and are you willing to turn from them with the aid and assistance of the Holy Spirit?

A. Yes, I acknowledge my sin and seek the Lord's mercy. (1 John 1:8-9)

Q. Do you believe that God, for Jesus' sake, has forgiven you all your sins?

A. Yes, Christ died for me and suffered the punishment that I deserved. (Isaiah 53:4-6; Romans 6:21-23)

Q. Do you believe that the Lord offers Christian His body and blood, in, with, and under the bread and the wine for the strengthening of faith and the forgiveness of sins?

A. Yes, I believe the Scripture which teaches, "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?" (2 Corinthians 10:16)

Members of the LCMS and Redeemer Lutheran Church believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and affirm the statements above. If you agree, without reservation, to these statements above, you are invited to come to His Table. If you do not agree with one or more of these statements, please refrain from participating in Holy Communion. Our communion practice is not intended to offend or exclude, but is an expression of our concern for people and our high regard for the Sacrament as Christ instituted it. We encourage you to speak with our Pastor or Elders about any statement(s) of disagreement and/or regarding the Holy Supper and the process of joining our congregation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Q. Why did Jesus willingly sacrifice Himself on behalf of lost and condemned sinners like us?

A. For His great love for the Father and for me and other sinners as it is revealed in John 3, John 11, Romans 5, and 1 John 3.

Q. Should Christians with weak faith receive the sacrament?

A. The Sacrament is especially offered for those of weak faith. (Isaiah 42:3; John 6:37)

Q. What conditions should cause a Christian to refrain from receiving the Sacrament?

A. Disbelief (Hebrews 11:6), unwillingness to forgive another (Matthew 6:14-15), hatred (John 4:19-21), a refusal to repent (Acts 17:30), and refusal to recognize the body and blood of the Lord in the Sacrament. (1 Corinthians 11:28-29)

Q. How then, does the Christian live?

A. The entirety of the Christian's life is offered to the Lord as a "living sacrifice." (Romans 12:1-2)