



REDEEMER

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

December 29, 2019

First Sunday After Christmas

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

Coventry Carol
16th Century English Carol

arr. by Ellson

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.


Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28: 19b; [18: 20]

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

L If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **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.

L Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **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:

L 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]

C Amen.

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4: 22

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day is spoken.

C Amen

THE READING OF GOD'S WRITTEN WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-14

After the reading:

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4-7

After the reading:

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

I Wonder As I Wander *Appalachian Carol*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
and high from the heavens a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it did then recall.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

SERMON

Remembering Mercy

TITHES & OFFERINGS

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

OFFERTORY

Peal of Joy *Redeemer Ringers*

D. Wagner

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:

Away In a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Public domain

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy,
 Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
 Oxen lowing,
 Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Swiftly winging,
 Angels singing,
 Bells are ringing,
 Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping,
 Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
 Saw the glory,
 Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing,
 Free from sorrow,
 Praises voicing,
 Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Public domain

Let Our Gladness Have No End

Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!
For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!

Refrain

On this day God gave us
Christ, His Son, to save us;
Christ, His Son, to save us.

Prophesied in days of old, alleluia!
God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia! [Refrain]

See, the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!
From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia! [Refrain]

Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia! [Refrain]

Text: Public domain

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. [Refrain]

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the-eternal Three in One. [Refrain]

Text: Public domain

TABLE THANKSGIVING

Ⓟ 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.

Ⓒ Amen.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

Ⓟ Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ⓒ 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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the-angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the-incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! [Refrain]

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. [Refrain]

Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace; Serve Your King!

G Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World/O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. by Ellson

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)

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)

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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