

# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2023  
The Service at 10 am

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand.*

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor Gracious God,  
Congregation **have mercy on us.**  
**We confess**  
**that we have turned from you**  
**and given ourselves**  
**into the power of sin.**  
**We are truly sorry**  
**and humbly repent.**  
**In your compassion**  
**forgive us our sins,**  
**known and unknown,**  
**things we have done**  
**and things we have failed to do.**  
**Turn us again to you,**  
**and uphold us by your Spirit,**  
**so that we may live and serve you**  
**in newness of life**  
**through Jesus Christ,**  
**our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

Pastor In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained servant of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN: PEOPLE, LOOK EAST #248

*We invite you to turn and face the cross (as you are comfortable). Please turn to the front of the sanctuary after the cross has passed you. All sing.*

## People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course and the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
Congregation **And also with you.**

## KYRIE

*All sing.*

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*

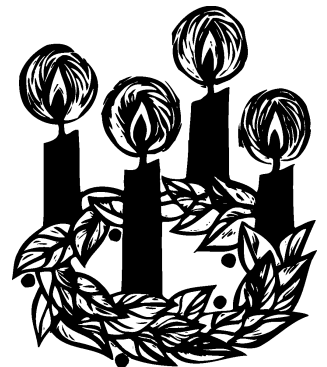
## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.  
Congregation **And also with you.**  
Pastor Let us pray.  
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Congregation **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## ADVENT WELCOME

Advent candles will be lit by Mark, Annabelle, Hannah, John, and Elsa Allard.



### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune



## THE WORD

### **Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.*

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Reader       | Word of God, word of life. |
| Congregation | <b>Thanks be to God.</b>   |

**Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

*Congregation sings words in bold.*



Your love, O LORD, forever<sup>1</sup> will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will pro-<sup>1</sup>claim your faithfulness.  
**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab-<sup>1</sup>lished forever;**  
**you have set your faithfulness firmly<sup>1</sup> in the heavens.**

“I have made a covenant with my<sup>1</sup> chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to Da-<sup>1</sup>vid my servant:  
**‘I will establish your<sup>1</sup> line forever,**  
**and preserve your throne for all<sup>1</sup> generations.’”**

You spoke once in a vision and said to your<sup>1</sup> faithful people:  
“I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out<sup>1</sup> of the people.  
**I have found Da-<sup>1</sup>vid my servant;**  
**with my holy oil have I a-<sup>1</sup>nointed him.**

My hand will<sup>1</sup> hold him fast  
and my arm will<sup>1</sup> make him strong.  
**No enemy<sup>1</sup> shall deceive him,**  
**nor shall the wicked<sup>1</sup> bring him down.**

I will crush his<sup>1</sup> foes before him  
and strike down<sup>1</sup> those who hate him.  
**My faithfulness and steadfast<sup>1</sup> love are with him,**  
**and he shall be victorious<sup>1</sup> through my name.**

I will set his hand<sup>1</sup> on the sea,  
and his right hand<sup>1</sup> on the rivers.  
**He will say to me, ‘You<sup>1</sup> are my father,**  
**my God, and the rock of<sup>1</sup> my salvation.’**

**Reading: Romans 16:25-27**

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Reader       | Word of God, word of life. |
| Congregation | <b>Thanks be to God.</b>   |

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
Please stand and sing.

**The Magnificat**  
Luke 1: 46-55

*From the Holden Evening Prayer*  
*by Marty Haugen*

*All:*

1.3. My soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y

great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of

you,  
heart, You have looked with love on your  
You have filled the hun - gry with

*fine last time*  
ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won-drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,  
As you prom-ised to Sar-ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.



The Gospel is announced.

Pastor

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Congregation

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Pastor

The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

*The Faith of Mary*  
Pastor Josh Wullenweber

## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em-man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol



## APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor  
Congregation

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## PRAYERS

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns.  
After each portion of the prayers:*

Pastor                      Merciful God,  
Congregation           **receive our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayer:*

Pastor                      Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
                                 trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Congregation           **Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor                      The peace of Christ be with you always.  
Congregation           **And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please give as you are able. We appreciate those who give in-person and those who give electronically.*

*Please sign the red attendance book and pass it down the pew.*

## OFFERTORY

*"Mary Did You Know", by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene*

## COME TO THE TABLE

### OFFERTORY SONG

*Please stand and sing.*

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor

Congregation

Let us pray.

**God of all creation,**

**all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.**

**You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.**

**Nourish us with these gifts that we may be for the world**

**signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand.*

Pastor

Congregation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Pastor

Congregation

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor

Congregation

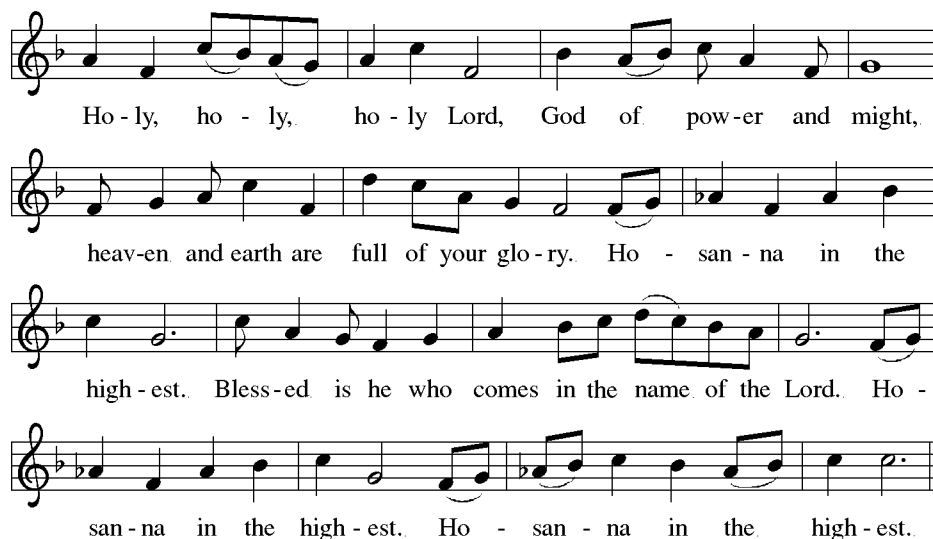
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*All sing.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

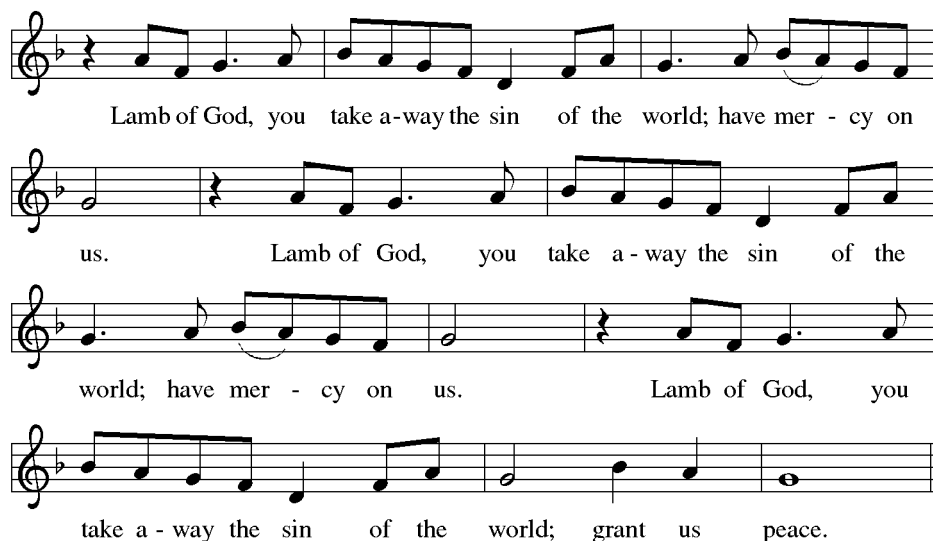
Pastor

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Congregation

**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.**

*All sing.*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNE

### COMMUNION

***All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.***

*We gather around the communion rail either kneeling or standing to receive communion.*

*Communion will be offered by intinction.*

*For those not comfortable receiving from the pastors' hands a separate tray with preset elements will follow.*

*Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*You are an important part of our faith community.*

COMMUNION HYMN: LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING #272

All sing.

# Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Please stand.

Pastor

Congregation

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Please stand and sing.*



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,  
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Congregation

**Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

Pastor

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Congregation

**Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL # 283

*Please follow the cross, turning toward the cross as it passes by your pew. As the cross leads, so Christ leads us out into the community to share Christ's love.*

*All sing.*

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*  
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## DISMISSAL

|              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pastor       | Go in peace, share the good news. |
| Congregation | <b>Thanks be to God.</b>          |

## POSTLUDE

### How Can This Be?

Mary receives a visit from the angel Gabriel, who shares the news that she will give birth to a holy one who will be called the Son of God. Her answer is not surprising: “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” We also hear that Elizabeth has conceived a child in her old age. How can this be?

While not always asked in just this way, the sentiment resounds throughout scripture. Noah is told of a coming flood, Abram and Sarai are promised a child in their old age, Moses is called to lead the people of Israel out from slavery under Pharaoh, and prophets foretell an end to exile. Every time, people wonder, How can this be?

Today we join Mary and Elizabeth in anticipation of the promised coming of the Son of God who will reign forever, and of the prophet-son who will prepare Jesus’ way. Mary’s question is an Advent question. But as we head through this new church year, it is a question we can return to again and again. It is a Christmas question that could have come from the mouths of the shepherds. It is an Epiphany question brought to mind by the bright light of a star. It is an Easter question from the women at the tomb and the disciples on the road to Emmaus. It is a Pentecost question for those set afire with the Holy Spirit and for those who hear their proclamation about Jesus in their own languages.

If we could make all things new on our own, we would not need God. If we could conquer death and bring reconciliation to the world, we would not need grace. But since nothing is impossible with God, we encounter new life in ways we have not imagined and find ourselves asking, How can this be? In joyous fear and trembling, we too can echo Mary and the others who each in their own way said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord!”

# **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**

**Children** are welcome in our worship. There is a children's worship bulletin for them. If you prefer, a nursery and/or childcare is available for children up to age 3 during all worship services.

**Hearing help available:** We have for your use, personal hearing amplification units available in the narthex. Please refer questions or comments to an usher.

**Church Phone: 703-356-3346**

**Email: [Church@redeermclean.org](mailto:Church@redeermclean.org)**

*Next Sunday 12/31 there will be only one service at 10 am.*

## **Christmas and New Year's Celebrations at Redeemer**

During the holiday season, Redeemer will offer several holiday services:

December 24 - **Christmas Eve** Services:

4 pm — Children's Christmas Pageant

6, 8, 10 pm — Traditional Candlelight Services

December 25 - **Christmas Day** Service at 10 am

December 31 - **Lessons and Carols**, Sunday at 10 am (one service only)

**New Year's Eve** Service at 5 pm

**All are welcome!**

*The flowers are given to the glory of God.*

*Today we are using Setting 2 from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.*

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*Please return this bulletin to the entrance hall for recycling if you choose not to take it home.*