

Christmas Day
Christ, the Savior, is born.
Glory to God in the highest.



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

December 25, 2023 The Service at 10:00 am

Christmas Day Service

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened
weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation **Amen.**


Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



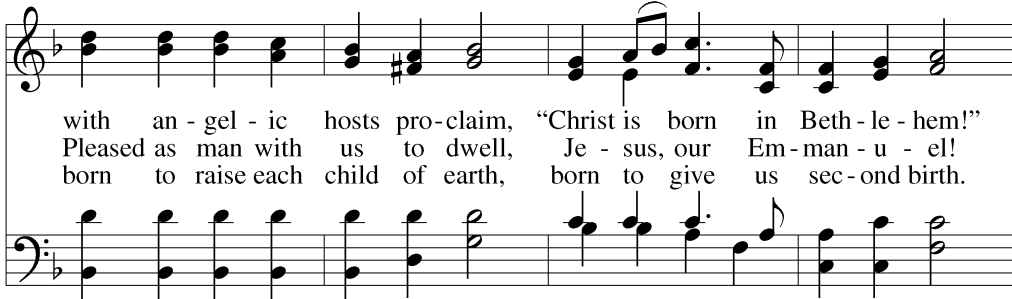
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na-tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car-nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins 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.

Reader	Word of God, word of life.
Congregation	Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-12

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made 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 his Father, and he will be my Son"?
And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."
Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."
But of the Son he says,
"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."
And,
"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Reader	Word of God, word of life.
Congregation	Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is announced.

Pastor
Congregation

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Pastor
Congregation

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Sandy Kessinger

CAROL #296
All sing.

What Child Is This

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

NICENE CREED

Asst. Min. With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.
Congregation **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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:*

Asst. Min. Hear us, O God.
Congregation **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Pastor May the peace of the Lord be with you always.
Congregation **And also with you.**

Please greet one another with God's peace.

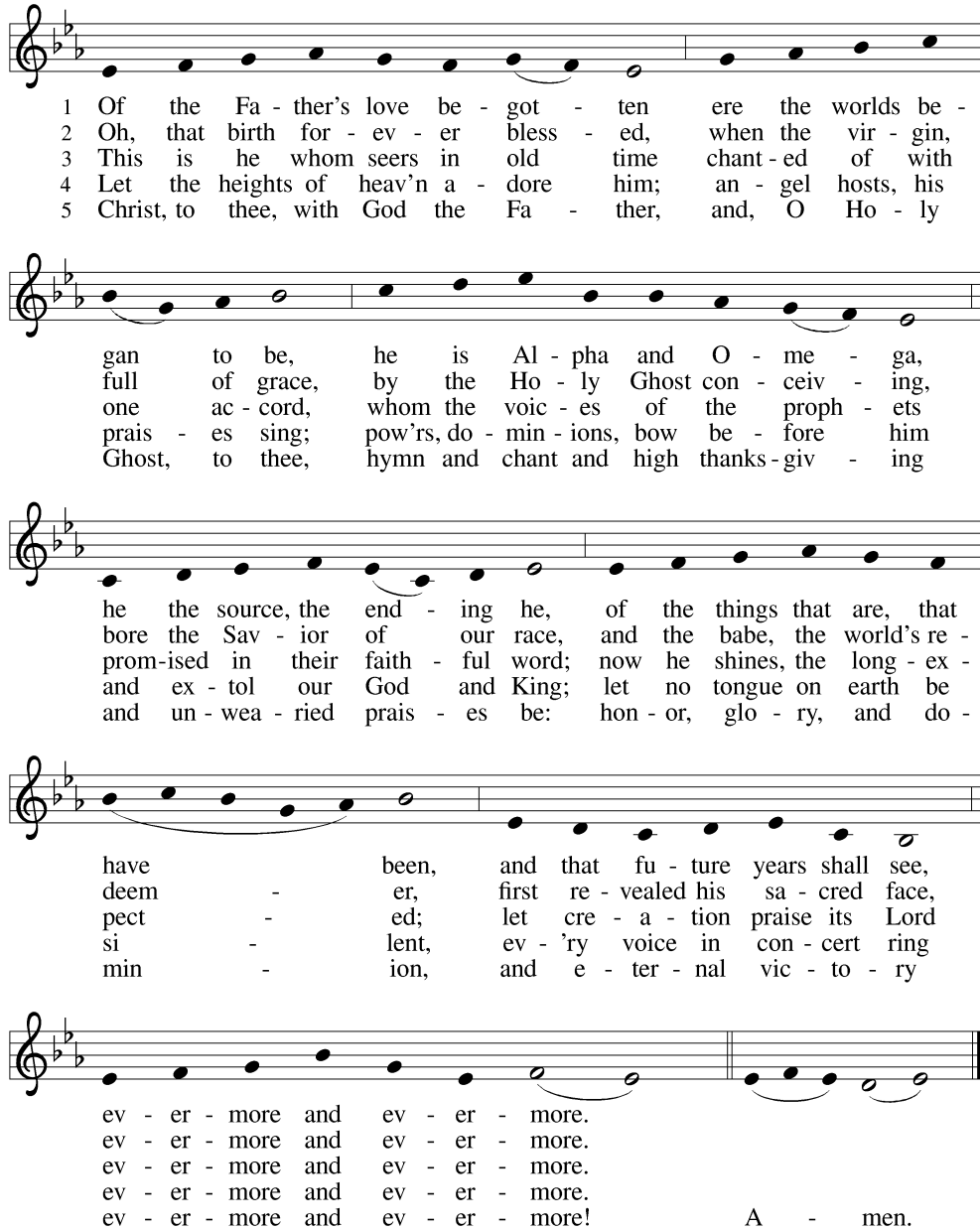
OFFERING

*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.*

OFFERING MUSIC

CAROL #295
All sing.

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have deem - been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 pect - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 si - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 min - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor
Congregation

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.**

**Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

Pastor
Pastor

The Lord be with you
Lift up your hearts

Congregation
Congregation

**And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
Congregation **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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

Congregation **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
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.**

LAMB OF GOD

Pastor Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.
Congregation **Amen.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNE

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 MUSIC

Piano Selections

BLESSING

Pastor Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Congregation **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand.

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

Asst. Min. Let us pray.
Congregation **God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING
Stand

Pastor May the God of Christmas be a blessing to you throughout the year.
Congregation **May we share with people everywhere the love, and the compassion, of our gracious God.**

Pastor May the blessing of the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you, now and always.
Congregation **Amen.**

CAROL #288
All sing.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Asst. Min. Go in peace to share the good news. Christ, the Savior, is born.
Congregation **Glory to God in the highest. Amen! Alleluia!**

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Special thanks to Barbara Donne, our pianist today, and Stacey Teitman as Assisting Minister.

Christmas Blessings to Everyone!

May the holy light that surrounds our Lord's birthplace illuminate your spirit and warm your heart.
May you welcome Jesus Christ, the heart of Christmas, into your life more fully.
May the love of God move you to love others, especially those most difficult to love.
And may Christ's peace, joy, and hope be yours at Christmas and in the New Year!

Pastor Sandy Kessinger, Pastor Josh Wullenweber, and the Staff of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Next Sunday: December 31st (one service only) at 10 am

Redeemer Renaissance Preschool & After-School 2024-25 School Year Registration
January 12th - 19th Returning Families (including siblings), January 22nd - 26th Waitlist Priority, and
January 22nd – Open Registration Begins & families may register on a space available basis.