

To Win and Save Souls for Christ

Redeemer Lutheran Church

265 Falconer Street – North Tonawanda, New York 14120



For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given...
and his name shall be called

*Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

December 24, 2020

Office Phone 692-5734 ~ Office E-mail: rlcntoffice@yahoo.com

Church Website ~ www.rlcnt.com

We invite you to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 AM.

Please join us!

Please note:

Candles will be distributed during the candle lighting portion of the service.

If you respond in a positive manner to these questions
and feel led by the Holy Spirit to commune
then receive the Holy Supper Jesus offers.



Prayer Before Worship:

Almighty God, in joy and wonder we contemplate the miracle of Your coming among us. Though we cannot fully understand the mystery that brought Jesus to the simple family of Mary and Joseph, we know it is a miracle rooted in love beyond measure. You embraced our human life, and then You offered it on the cross so that we might have life to the full. Help us to receive that life and offer it back to You in loving service for the sake of Your kingdom. Amen.



Our Worship Service:

Officiant: Rev. Robert Spilman

Communion Assistant: Janet Zehr

Readers: Marilyn Kurzdorfer & Rob Haak

Organist: Kathy Beutel

Greetings and Announcements



Opening Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Invocation ~

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

C: Amen

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**C: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.**

The Advent Wreath ~ All candles are lit

P: Jesus said. "I am the light of the world."

**C: "Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."**

Confession ~

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven;
whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the one against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**C: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my
groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was
heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat
of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not
cover my iniquity; I said "I will confess my transgressions
to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time
when you may be found. Let us confess our sins, confident that
our gracious God forgives us.

**C: Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of Your name;
deliver us, and atone for our sins,
for Your name's sake!**

P: Peace be with you! Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ tells
His Church, "If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven."
I, therefore, a called pastor of His Church, by His authority forgive
you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of

the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Introit ~

**When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word,
O Lord, descended from the royal throne. Why do the nations
rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set
themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the
Lord and against His anointed. He who sits in the heavens
laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then He will
speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury,
saying, ‘As for Me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.’
(Psalm 2)**

Collect of the Day ~

**O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness
of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries
of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His
joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.**

Service of the Word ~

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
³You have enlarged the nation

and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Councilor, Mighty God
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: Psalm 96

our Reader will read the odd numbered verses

Congregation reads the even numbered verses

¹Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

²**Sing to the Lord, praise his name;**

proclaim his salvation day after day.

³Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;**

he is to be feared above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the nations are idols,

but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶**Splendor and majesty are before him;**

strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;**

bring an offering and come into his courts.

⁹Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;

tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰**Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.”**

The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;

he will judge the peoples with equity.

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

¹²**Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;**

let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

¹³Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,

he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness

and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Epistle Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel ~

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter, verses 1-20

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a

Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴”Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them, ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Hymn ~ “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.

Sermon ~ “The Miracle of Christmas”

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 ~

after Pastor says “Lord in Your mercy” we reply “hear our prayer”

(Please place Offerings in the plate at the entrance upon leaving)

Lord's Prayer ~

**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.**

The Words of our Lord/ Institution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns ~

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

An-gels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo - - - ria in excelsis De - o, Glo - - - ria in excelsis De - o,
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Glo - - - ria in excelsis De - o, Glo - - - ria in excelsis De - o,
Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the an-gels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Glo - - - ria in excelsis De - o, Glo - - - ria in excelsis De - o,



“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!

Proclaim the Savior's birth:

“To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!”

The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

Proclaim the Savior's birth:

“To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!”

While thus they sing your Monarch, those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, and oceans clap your hands.

Proclaim the Saviors birth:

“To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!”

Since all He comes to ransom, By all He be adored,
The infant born in Beth-l'em, The Savior and the Lord.

Proclaim the Saviors birth:

“To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!”

All idols then shall perish and Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise

His scepter, Decreeing endless peace.

Proclaim the Saviors birth:

“To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!”

“The First Noel”

The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they, lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep,
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star, wherever it went
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those Wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord,
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Our Thanksgiving ~

(sing to the tune of From Heaven Above To Earth I Come)

Lord, let Your servants go in peace,
And as we leave our joy increase.
For Your salvation we have seen,
through this You have declared us clean.

As Simeon once the Child did hold,
Just as to him it had been told,
So we did too this eve receive,
The Christ in whom our hearts believe.

So let us live our thanks to Him.
And once more praise God with this hymn,
Glory to God our Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, three in One. Amen.

The Candle Lighting ~

*Pastor will light his candle from the Advent candle
that symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world.
Please turn your candle on after he has done this.*



Pastor:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light;
Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has Light shined.
Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world;
he who follows Me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the Light of Life...
you are the light of the world...
Let your light so shine before all,
that they may see your good works

and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**C: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among all with whom He is pleased!**

All Pray:

**O God, You have made the most holy time of Jesus birth to shine
with the brightness of the true Light. Thank you for the gift
of life in and with our Savior, and the joys of heaven, where
You live and reign in unity, one God, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, forever. Amen.**

“The Lord’s Prayer - In Song”

(sing to the tune of “Away in a Manger”)

Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone.
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven’s high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day.
As we forgive others, our sins take away.
In times of temptation, to lead us be near.
From evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom – o’er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power, all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
from all of creation, forever! Amen.

“Mary Did You Know”

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy

Has come to make you new?

This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you.



Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Would calm a storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy

Has walked where angels trod?

When you kiss your little baby,

You've kissed the face of God. Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy

Was heavens perfect lamb?

And the sleeping child your holding is the great I Am.

Benediction ~ (all sing)

As you go on your way, may God go with you.
May God go before you to show you the way.

May God go behind you to encourage you;
Beside you to befriend you;
Above you to watch over;
Within you to give you peace.

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



Closing Hymn ~ “Silent Night”

Silent Night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

(Please turn the candles off after the close of the hymn
& hand to ushers as you leave.)

**Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas in your Lord,
with your heart as a manger for Him!**





LORD,

Bless the families of the earth
As Christmas comes this year,
Bring hope to all your children
Raise their spirits,
bring them cheer.

Remind us that we're not alone
No matter what we do,
For you brought Baby Jesus
To connect our hearts to You.
Amen

