

Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church

265 Falconer Street – North Tonawanda, New York 14120



Our Mission: "To Win and Keep Souls for Christ"

Today Is December 5, 2021 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

Contemporary Service

Office Phone 692-5734 ~ Office Text (716) 800-1427

Office hours: Monday through Friday 8:30am to 12:30pm

Office E-mail: rlcntoffice@yahoo.com ~ Church Website ~ www.rlcnt.com

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

Also, Please join us for

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God promises a safe landing,
not a calm passage

Before communing, we follow our Lord's directions and examine ourselves as it says in I Corinthians 11. We ask ourselves:

Am I baptized and do I believe in Jesus as my Savior?

Do I admit I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?

Am I ready and willing to repent of my sin, to turn away from it,
and with God's help intentionally try to live
in a way which pleases Him?

Have I forgiven everyone who has sinned against me?

Am I free of all grudges?


Do I believe in His presence,
that I am receiving Jesus' Body and Blood as He says?

Do I believe His promise that if I confess my sins
He will forgive me completely?

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.

[illegible]

Prayer Before Worship:



I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger, and I pray You that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked Foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Preservice Music ~ all are welcome to sing along!

Rejoice In The Lord Always

Rejoice in the Lord Always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice.

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,

pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

We are temples of Your Holy Spirit,

You are with us, You're our friend.

We are righteous, we are forgiven,

Thank you Jesus for Your love.

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Our Worship Service:

Officiant: Rev. Robert Spilman

Communion Assistant: Jim Ganschow

Readers: Kathy Beutel & Rob Haak

Deacon on Duty: Janet Zehr

Greetings and Announcements

Opening Hymn: #338 from our Lutheran Service Book

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1. Come Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Invocation ~

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

C: Amen

~ Service of the Word ~

Introit ~

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!" O Israel, if you would but listen to me! I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. O, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! (Psalm 81)

Our Old Testament Reading ~ Malachi 3:1-7b

¹"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and

Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

⁶“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Psalm ~ Psalm 66:1-12

¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth!

² Sing the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.

³Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power
that your enemies cringe before you.

⁴All the earth bows down to you;
they sing praise to you,
they sing praises of your name.

⁵Come and see what God has done,
his awesome deeds for mankind!

⁶He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the waters on foot --
come, let us rejoice in him.

⁷He rules forever by his power,
his eyes watch the nations --
let not the rebellious rise up against him.

⁸Praise our God, all peoples,
 let the sound of his praise be heard;
⁹he has preserved our lives
 and kept our feet from slipping.
¹⁰For you, God, tested us;
 you refined us like silver.
¹¹You brought us into prison
 and laid burdens on our backs.
¹²You let people ride over our heads;
 we went through fire and water,
 but you brought us to a place of abundance.

New Testament Reading ~ Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel ~

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke,
the 3rd chapter, verses 1-20

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶And all people will see God’s salvation.’ “

⁷John said to the crowds coming to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰“What then should we do?” the crowd asked.

¹¹John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

¹⁹But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, ²⁰Herod added this to them all; He locked John up in prison.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Glory to You, O Lord, Praise to You, O Christ.

We confess our faith in the words of:

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.

Hymn of the Day: #92 from our Favorite Hymns Booklet
“Lord Be Glorified”

1. In my life, Lord, Be glorified, be glorified.
In my life, Lord, Be glorified today.
2. In my song, Lord, Be glorified, be glorified.
In my song, Lord, Be glorified today.
3. In your church, Lord, Be glorified, be glorified.
In your church, Lord, Be glorified today.

Sermon ~ "Prepare The Way"

Offertory ~

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church ~

when Pastor says “Let us pray to the Lord”
we reply “Lord have mercy”

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.

Confession and Absolution ~

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, as 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!

Words of our Lord/ Institution of the Sacrament

Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymn: #333 from our Lutheran Service Book “Once He Came in Blessing”

1. Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly. Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.
2. Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.
3. Soon will come that hour When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgement render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.
4. Come, then O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav’n we bless You.

Nunc Dimittis ~

1. O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heavenly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
2. All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God’s triune name resounding Through all eternity.

Prayer and Benediction ~

P: O give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**C: He remembers His covenant forever,
the covenant that He made with Abraham.**

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn ~ #357 from our Lutheran Service Book
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile her,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7. 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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*If you haven't already done so,
Please place Offerings in the plate at the entrance upon leaving*

*Thank
You!*



For worshipping with us



This Week's Families To Pray For:

Siezega ~ Cody & Rochelle & family

Siezega ~ Jared

Siezega ~ Marci, Pat

Simmang ~ Beth

Smolen/Williams ~ Meaghan & Chris & family

Smolen ~ Walt

Stahlman ~ Dan & Kim, Bradley

Stahlman ~ Roger & Barb

Szafranski ~ Joselyn

Thompson ~ Katie & Jay & family

This Week's Birthdays:

12/5 thru 12/11

Saturday 12/11 ~ Haleigh Wilson

