

To Win and Save Souls for Christ

Redeemer Lutheran Church

265 Falconer Street – North Tonawanda, New York 14120



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 20, 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.

Wednesday Evening Advent Worship ~ 7pm

at 7 PM on Thursday, December 24th!

[illegible]

Isaiah 53:2b-3

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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.

Prayer Before Worship:



By Your humility, grant us certainty
of our exaltation to eternal life.

Amen.



Our Worship Service:

Officiant: Rev. Robert Spilman

Communion Assistant: Janet Zehr

Readers: Pam Zimmerman & Marilyn Winter

Organist: Marlina Belstadt

Greetings and Announcements

Opening Hymn: “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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 Wreaths four outer 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 ~

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. In them He has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving His chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Collect of the Day ~

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Service of the Word ~

Old Testament Reading: II Samuel 7:1-11 & 16

¹After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

³Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”

⁴But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

⁵”Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

⁸”Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

...¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: Psalm 89:1-5

- ¹I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.
- ²I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
- ³You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,
- ⁴I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through all generations."
- ⁵The heavens praise your wonders, Lord,
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Epistle Reading: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith – ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel ~

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, 1st chapter, vs 26-38

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “may your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Hymn ~ “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Sermon ~ “God’s Word to Mary and to Us”

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”

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

Benediction ~

P: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

C: Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon
You and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.

C: Amen.



Closing Hymn: “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.
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.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.



Coloring Page