

Redeemer Lutheran Church

265 Falconer Street – North Tonawanda, New York 14120



“That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village,
guarding their flocks of sheep.” Luke 2:8

Our Mission: “To Win and Keep Souls for Christ”

Today Is December 24, 2021 ~ Christmas Eve

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

Merry Christmas!

**Tonight we gather as the shepherds did,
at the manger,**

to see

**“this wonderful thing that has happened,
which the Lord has told us about.”**

Luke 2:15

They probably assumed that night would be more or less
the same as all the others.

They never expected to see what they saw in the darkness.

It is amazing what we see in the darkness of our lives too.

Sooner or later in those moments our Lord brings us
a message or two as well.

Welcome everyone!

We invite you to worship again with us.

**Our prayer is that our Lord will bless you richly
as you celebrate these Holydays!**

We will have a traditional communion service
with parts of the liturgy sung to familiar hymns.

We will conclude in candlelight.

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 sins?

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:



Lord Jesus, we have gathered to celebrate the fact that You came to be one of us to bring us salvation. We worship to be nourished by You through Your Word and Sacrament. Minister to each of us as You know our needs. Transform us through Your soul saving life changing Word. Help us sense Your presence with us.

In humility we pray in Your Name.

Amen.

Our Worship Service:

Officiant: Rev. Robert Spilman

Communion Assistant: Jim Ganschow

Opening Hymn ~ #370 from our Lutheran Service Book

“What Child Is This”

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come peasant, king, to own Him,
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Invocation ~

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

C: Amen.

Confession ~

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us
from all unrighteousness.**

(Let Us Observe a few moments of silence to give thought to our relationship with our Lord and how often we fail to meet His standards and at times even intentionally disobey His commands. We ponder the extreme value He places on us and His extreme love for us. We also consider the completeness of His forgiveness which Jesus earned for us on the cross.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father
and receive the forgiveness Jesus earned for us.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess what You know that we are,
in and of our humanity, born sinful. And that we sin almost
without thought, certainly against our consciences, and against
what You have told us not to do. Yet you love us individually
and unconditionally. With the tax collector, and knowing that
we are in Your presence, we bow in humility. We plead, “Be
merciful to me, a sinner, Lord.” We ask, for the sake of Your
Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us, renew us, sharpen our
consciences, and help us to be the people You want us to be.
Thank you, Lord God. Amen.**

Absolution ~

P: As we know and take comfort in, Almighty God sent His Son,
whose birth we celebrate tonight, to die for us, and now for
His sake God forgives us all our sins. Therefore, I speak His

Word of assurance – You are forgiven as He promised – in
the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Song ~ “Mary Did You Know?”

Words and Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

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.

Introit ~ to the Tune of LSB #389

(“Let All Together Praise Our God”)

Choir: To us a child of hope is born, To us a Son is given,
And on His shoulder ever rest all power in earth and heaven,
All power in earth and heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord, The Wonderful,
The Counselor, The God by all adored, The God by all adored.

**C: A new song sing unto the Lord, praise Him with one accord,
For God has done a marvelous thing His Son to us to bring,
His Son to us to bring.**

**To Father, Son and Holy Ghost all glory now be given.
We celebrate His birth today with angels hosts in heaven,
with angels hosts in heaven.**

Old Testament Lesson ~ Isaiah 9:2-7

The Christmas Gospel ~ Luke 2:1-20

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.

Hymn ~ “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night”

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
Has seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.”

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 ~ #366 from our Lutheran Service Book
“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good-will to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Sermon ~ “The Hidden Presence Of God”

Hymn ~ #368 from our Lutheran Service Book
“Angels We Have Heard On High”

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the glad-some tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?

Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore in bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

Prayers ~

P: Father in heaven, we often sing and refer to the night of Jesus' birth as a 'Holy Night.' In truth our minds in all their brilliance can never fully understand this act of Your love for us. We also acknowledge that its meaning for us and its newness does not bring us to the point of bowing at the sound of Your Name. We have built walls of indifference and least priority in our relationship to You. You have warned us, "What do we gain if we acquire the whole world and lose our own soul?" Forgive your sheep, Great Shepherd. Work miracles of transformation and repentance in us. Change water to wine, gossip to praise, selfishness to service, cursing to words that honor You, hatred and revenge to love and mercy, neglect of Your Word to prayer and worship. Holy Spirit, be born in us and fill us with the faith that You are the Living, Gracious God and Savior of us all, and that each of us is loved in Your presence. We pray in the name of the One who came among us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song ~ "Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying"

Lord, Listen to Your children praying.

Lord, send Your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to Your children praying;

Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

The Lord's Prayer

(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.

Service of the Sacrament

Words of Institution ~

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

Agnus Dei ~ to the Tune of LSB #361

(**"O Little Town Of Bethlehem"**)

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of all the world,
Upon us too have mercy now according to Your Word;
O Lamb of God, may ever our love for You increase
And may You grant to us again the promise of Your peace.

Distribution of Communion

Song: “Who Am I”

Charles Rusty Goodman

1. When I think of how He came so far from glory,
came to dwell among the lowly, such as I
to suffer shame and such disgrace,
on Mount Calv’ry take my place,
then I ask myself this question, “Who Am I?”
Who Am I that the King would bleed and die for?
Who Am I that He would pray, not my will, Thine Lord?
The answer I may never know, why He ever loved me so,
to an old rugged cross He’d go, for who am I?
2. When I’m reminded of His Words, “I’ll leave you never,
just be true, I’ll give you life forever.”
I wonder what I could have done, to deserve God’s only Son,
to fight my battles, until they’re won, who am I?
Who Am I that the King would bleed and die for?
Who Am I that He would pray, not my will, Thine Lord?
The answer I may never know, why He ever loved me so,
to an old rugged cross He’d go, for who am I?

“Oh How Joyfully”

1. Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily
Christmas comes with its grace divine!
Grace again is beaming, Christ the world redeeming:
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!
2. Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily
Christmas comes with its peace divine!
Peace on earth is reigning, Christ our peace regaining,
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!

3. Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily
Christmas comes with its life divine!
Angels high in glory Chant the Christmas Story,
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!

Nunc Dimittis ~ to the Tune of LSB #908
(**“Lord, Open Now My Heart To Hear”**)

Lord, let Your servants go in peace,
And as we leave our joy increase.
For Your salvation we have seen,
Through it 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 day 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.”

Thanksgiving Prayer ~ to the Tune of LSB #895
(**“Now Thank We All Our God”**)

Choir:

O come and thank our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done In whom the world rejoices;
Who came into this world through a young maiden's womb
And set us free from death's imprisoning tomb.

Congregation:

**All thanks to You, O Lord, For being present with us,
And sharing once again, this pledge of Your forgiveness.
O help us to forgive each other in all love,
And working hand in hand, give praise to You above.**

The Candle Lighting ~

P: And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

C: And God saw that the light was good!

P: God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

**C: Arise, shine, for Your light has come
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle
in the Advent wreath.

This symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World.
(The congregation may now turn on their candle lights)

Song: "Long Time Ago in Bethlehem"

1. Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible says
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas day
Listen hear the angels sing
A new king is born today
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day
2. While shepherds watched their flocks by night
They see a bright new shining star
And then they hear a choir sing
The music seem to come from afar.
Listen hear the angels sing
A new king is born today
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day

3. When Joseph and his wife Mary
Came to Bethlehem that night
They found no place to born that child
Not a single room was in sight.
Listen hear the angels sing
A new king is born today
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day

4. Then bye and bye they find a little nook
In a stable all forlorn
And in a manger cold and dark
Mary's little boy was born.
Listen hear the angels sing
A new king is born today
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day

P: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great Light.
Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them the Light has
shined. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; he who follow 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 others 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
to all the world with whom he is pleased!**

Song: "O Holy Night"

O holy night! The stars were brightly shining,
It was the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night -- divine, O night, O night divine.

Farewell Salutation ~ to the Tune of LSB #390
(“Let Us All With gladsome Voice”)

P: In your work and in your play, May the Lord go with you.
May He guide you ev’ry day, Guard and keep and bless you.

C: May our Lord Watch o’er you too, Guide and keep you, Pastor.
May He bless all that you do for our Lord and Master.

Benediction ~

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, and may the boundless love of God the Father, who at the fullness of time sent His Son to be our Savior, and may the communion of the Holy Spirit, who brings us to faith and empowers us to live for Him who died for us and rose again, be with us now and forevermore.

C: Amen, Amen, may it be so for every one of us here
tonight in rich measure!

Closing Hymn ~ #363 from our Lutheran Service Book
“Silent Night, Holy Night”

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. 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!

All candles may now be turned off.
Please hand them to the ushers as you depart.
Thank you.

Blessed, Merry Christmas!
Rejoice in the Lord always,
again...
rejoice in the Lord our Savior!