

Redeemer Lutheran Church
869 7th Avenue SE
Rochester, MN 55904

CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 24, 2018

1:30, 3:30, and 5:30 pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church –
Rochester, Minnesota

WELCOME!

“Christ the Savior is born!” May the peace from God in Jesus bring joy and hope into your life this Christmas Eve, and into the lives of others for whom you pray.

Holy Communion is celebrated in each service today. We invite those who acknowledge their sinfulness, recognize that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for our forgiveness, and are willing to give witness to the unity of their faith with this community, to join with us in receiving the sacrament. For those who for health or conscience reasons are not able to receive wine, please note that there is a cup of white grape juice in the middle of each tray.

Our nursery is open during all services this afternoon and evening, but is not staffed.

() Those who are able are asked to stand during these parts of the Service.*

+ We Come Into God’s Presence +

WELCOME AND GREETINGS *(We welcome our fellow worshippers.)*

(*) PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Once In Royal David’s City” LSB 376

(*) INVOCATION

P: We are gathered as a Family of Believers to celebrate the birth of our Savior in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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C: Amen.

P: In this Christmas Child, our Father has come to us, His family.

C: Rejoice! Rejoice! Our God is here with us!

P: In this Christmas Child, our Immanuel, God is always near and never far.

C: Rejoice! Rejoice! Our God is here with us!

(*) CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In our Christmas celebration we know that our Immanuel was given the name Jesus

C: Because He will save His people from their sins

P: We confess today knowing that the God who is with us is the God who saves us from our sins

C: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves. We need a savior!

P: Family of Believers, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins in the presence of our Immanuel to God our Father

C: Heavenly Father, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and hold us close as your family in our Christmas Savior.

P: Hear the angel's words, "She will give birth to a son and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." The God who is with you is the God who saves you. It is my joy to announce to you today your Savior has come, your sins are forgiven. God is with you. Amen.

C: Rejoice! Rejoice! Our God is here with us. Immanuel, our God is still with us!

(*) PRAISE RESPONSE

(LSB 361, st. 1 & 4)

**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.**

**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! *(Please be seated.)***

ANTHEM (5:30 pm) "Christmas Song" – Cherub Choir

+ God Speaks to Us +

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

L: The Old Testament Reading for Christmas Eve is from Isaiah the seventh chapter.

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."

¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:10-14 NIV

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Epistle reading is from 1 John, chapter four.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. *1 John 4:7-16 NIV*

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Please stand to sing.)

(*) RESPONSE

(LSB 370, st. 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!

(*) THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, our Immanuel!

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¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25 NIV

P: This is the Good News of Great Joy

C: **Immanuel, our God is still with us!**

(*) GOSPEL RESPONSE

(LSB 370, st. 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! *(Please be seated.)***

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(Parents, please feel free to come forward with small children.)*

HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee God of glory Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day**

Chorus: **Rejoice, Rejoice, our God is here with us.**

Emmanuel, our God is still with us.

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music lifts us sunward, in the triumph song of life. *Chorus***

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Chorus

SERMON *"Christmas Assurance"* – Matthew 1:23

+ We Respond To God's Word +

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

(Unless otherwise designated, special offerings will be distributed as follows: 50% Local Ministry, 15% Camp Omega, 10% Rochester Servant Event, 10% KINDLE, 15% Salvation Army Emergency Fund.)

FRIENDSHIP REGISTRATION

(Please fill in and pass the booklets in your row, if you have not already done so.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

(1:30 pm) "What Child Is This" – Ken Ikier, Euphonium

(3:30 pm) "Climb To The Top Of The Highest Mountain" – Sounds of Praise

(5:30 pm) "Little Drummer Boy" – Alleluia Singers

(When the offerings are brought forward, please stand to sing. . .)

(*) OFFERTORY

(LSB 364, sts. 1 & 3)

**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.**

**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.**

(*) CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by the Wise Men; who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from sin, death and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love, to live under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.

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(*) PRAYERS

P: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

(*) LORD'S PRAYER (tune: LSB 366)

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,
Most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
On earth, in heaven, the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead;
From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom, unto You
In grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view
Your mighty presence now.
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung
By angel hosts and men
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
Forevermore. Amen.

+ God Serves Us His Holy Meal +

(*) WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

(*) AGNUS DEI

(tune: LSB 358)

O Lamb of God, you take away
The sin of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sin release,
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace. (Please be seated.)

For the 3:30 and 5:30 pm services, distribution is continuous -- we will not kneel. When directed by the usher, proceed in two lines to the front, then go to the left or right to receive the bread, and then the wine, returning by the side aisle (or through the Chapel). Those in the Chapel will commune last, coming in the side door, and then returning directly to the Chapel.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

(3:30 pm) **ANTHEM** "See Amid The Winters Snow" – Sounds of Praise

(5:30 pm) **ANTHEM** "Still, Still, Still" – Alleluia Singers

HYMN "Angels From The Realms of Glory" LSB 367
HYMN "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" LSB 377
HYMN "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" LSB 366
HYMN "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" LSB 359

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+ God Sends Us Forth to Serve and Proclaim +

(When all have communed, please stand for the common dismissal and to sing. . .)

(*) NUNC DIMITTUS

(LSB 380, st. 2)

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

(*) POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: With angel hosts we sing your praise

C: **Immanuel, our God is still with us**

P: For you have come close to us...in this place....in this meal

C: **Immanuel, our God is still with us**

P: Remain with us, our Immanuel, that we may spread your Good News of presence to all

C: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Our God is here with us! Immanuel, our God is still with us! Amen.**

(*) BENEDICTION *(Based upon John 20:31)*

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. May the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forevermore!

All: **And send us out to share our "Good news of great joy!"**

(*) HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" LSB 363

*(In celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the hymn,
let us all sing stanza 1 in German and then sing stanzas 1,2,3 in English.)*

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BLESSED TO SERVE

Message..... Pastor Adam Koglin
Children’s MessageMichael Harvey, DCE
Organist April Beckman, DPM
Sounds of Praise Director..... April Beckman, DPM
Alleluia Singers Directors Joel and Kris Mueller
Acolytes
 1:30 pm Myia Tveten / Alyssa Fick
 3:30 pm Jordan Timbeross / Liam Olive
 5:30 pm Liam Olive / Seamus Olive
Elders
 1:30 pm Steven Brady
 3:30 pm Tony Fick / Tom Werle
 5:30 pm Tim Rossman / Scott Feeder
Greeters
 1:30 pm Kurt and Clare West
 3:30 pm Ladue & Darlene Vatland / Bonnie and Jerry Ott
 5:30 pm **Volunteers Needed**

Lectors
 1:30 pm Clare West
 3:30 pm Molly Gommels
 5:30 pm Micah Heins
Technology Helpers
 1:30 pm Heidi Diercks
 3:30 pm Dan Zeccardi
 5:30 pm MJ Harvey
Ushers
 1:30 pm Jim Bronk, Dale Hass, Larry Stoen
 3:30 pm Dave Zarling, Aaron Peter
 5:30 pm Jill and Al Horstmann, Ed Feeder
Welcome Center
 1:30 pm Diana and Larry Stoen
 3:30 pm Terry and Sharon Muller
 5:30 pm Dan and Terri Zemke



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP led by our Youth will be at 11 pm. This service is completely different than our afternoon services. Join us as our youth present their drama, **“Fully Known”**

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP with Holy Communion will be at 9:00 am. Please join us!