



Christmas Day Worship

December 25, 2018 -- 9:00 am

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Rochester, Minnesota

At Christmas we celebrate the fact that Christ came to us in a manger to grant us life and forgiveness. In communion we celebrate that God comes to us here and now offering the same gifts anew. It is appropriate for us today to humbly bow at the side of the manger, honoring Jesus and receiving his gifts.

Holy Communion is celebrated in our 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. Gluten free wafers are also available.

() 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 worshipers.)*

(*) PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB 380

(*) INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP *(From Isaiah 52)*

P: Awake, Awake, put on your strength, O people of God.

C: **We want to shake the dust of sleep from our eyes and our lives.**

P: Put on your beautiful garments of salvation, O Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

C: **We come to worship our Savior, wrapped in a swaddling cloth.**

P: And because of this day, we know the name of our God.

C: **Immanuel—God with us!**

P: Father,

C: **giving all comfort, hope, and salvation.**

P: Son,

C: **giving all love, joy, and redemption.**

P: Holy Spirit,

C: **calling all to cherish, believe, and share the Good News.**

P: Jesus is Born!

C: **Alleluia! Amen.**

(*) RESPONSE

(LSB 358, st. 7)

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,

And see what in the manger lies.

Who is this child, so young and fair?

It is the Christ Child lying there.

(*) CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(from Isaiah 52)*

P: Family of Believers, we come together to hear the message of peace through our Savior, Jesus Christ. The message of victory and comfort that, "your God reigns" and He *has* come to reign over, and set us free from, our sin. At times we have neglected the beautiful message of the Christ-child. We continue to walk with the ugly feet of pride, self-sufficiency, and apathy in how we live for Jesus or share Him with others. At times, we let the darkness of our world stifle our trust and joy in the Savior. But, because your God reigns, God is bigger than all your mountains, doubts, questions, sins, and successes. And He has promised His grace and mercy through the Christ-child we worship today. Therefore, let us first consider our sinfulness and confess our need before God and one another.

(silence for confession of sins)

P: We confess together

C: **Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and lead us to everlasting life; for the sake of your Son our Savior. Amen**

(*) RESPONSE

(LSB 358, st. 14)

**My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

P: God says, "Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am." Here Jesus is to tell you that your sin is covered by His righteousness. Know that it is God who speaks to you, "I forgive you all your sins," in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The LORD has comforted you, He has redeemed you. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God as our mouths and lives break forth into singing together...

(*) RESPONSE

(LSB 358, st. 15)

**Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth. *(Please be seated.)***

+ God Speaks to Us +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

L: The Old Testament Reading for Christmas Day is from Isaiah, chapter fifty-two.

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" ⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52:7-10 NIV

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

L: The Epistle Reading is from the first chapter of Hebrews.

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Hebrews 1:1–6 NIV

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

(*) RESPONSE

(LSB 367, st. 2)

**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.**

(*) HOLY GOSPEL

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He

came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-14 NIV

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(*) GOSPEL RESPONSE

(LSB 367, st. 5)

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Parents, please feel free to come forward with smaller children.)

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard On High" LSB 368

SERMON

+ We Respond To God's Word +

FRIENDSHIP REGISTRATION

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

MUSICAL OFFERING "Goin' To Bethlehem" – Sounds of Praise

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.)

(Please stand to sing when the offerings are brought forward.)

(*) OFFERTORY

(LSB 361, st. 4)

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!

(*) 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.

(*) THE PRAYERS

(*) LORD'S PRAYER *(tune: LSB 366, It Came Upon A Midnight Clear)*

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 +

(*) COMMUNION AT THE MANGER

P: May Jesus, the baby of Bethlehem, the Crucified and Risen Savior, be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Break forth together in singing

C: **For in the mystery of the Incarnation, God took on human flesh, that we might be saved and praise Him forever.**

(*) RESPONSE

(LSB 393, st. 1)

**Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!**

(*) THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(*) RESPONSE

(LSB 393, st. 2)

**Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you! *(Please be seated.)***

*(Distribution is continuous. When directed by the usher, proceed to the rail.
When you have communed and had time for prayer, return by the far left aisle)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

- HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379
- HYMN** "Joy To The World" LSB 387
- HYMN** "What Child Is This" LSB 370
- HYMN** "See Amid The Winter's Snow" LSB 373

+ God Sends Us Forth to Serve and Proclaim +

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

(*) THE THANKSGIVING

(LSB 374, st. 3)

**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!**

(*) THE BENEDICTION

P: To us a Child is born!
C: **To us a Son is given!**
P: He has the beautiful feet
C: **which bring us peace and joy forevermore.**
P: And we know His name.
C: **He is Immanuel- God with us.**
P: He makes our feet beautiful with the message of salvation
C: **which we carry into whatever we do in word or deed.**
P: Let us do all things in the name of Jesus, our Immanuel, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(*) HYMN "Go Tell It On The Mountain" LSB 388

POSTLUDE



BLESSED TO SERVE

Message..... Pastor Benjamin Loos	Elder Randy Hellickson
LiturgistPastor Adam Koglin	Greeters..... Kelly and Mandie Anderson
Children’s MessageJosh Heirigs, DCE	Lector Lois Leuth
Organist/Sounds of Praise Director April Beckman, DPM	Ushers..... Fred Crossfield / Greg Utesch
Brass..... Matt Saxman / Ken Ikier	Welcome Center..... Megan Grudem
Acolytes Kylee Hartson / Lydia Domaille	