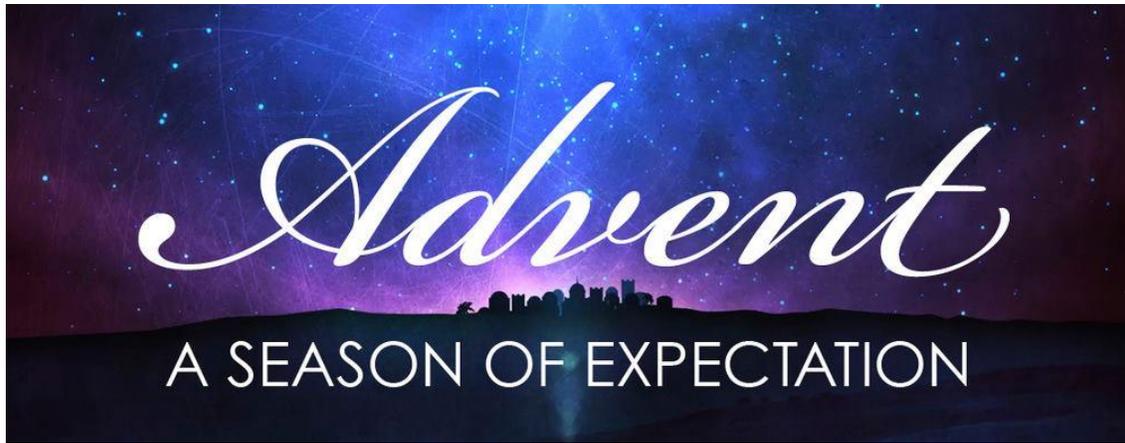


## *The Fourth Sunday in Advent*

*December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

*Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owosso / Faith Landing Lutheran Church, Davison*



**Announcements . . . *Before the service begins, review the guidelines for “Home Holy Communion” provided on the last page of this worship document.***

### **Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: As we await the fullness of Christ’s coming, let us acknowledge our sins and failures before God.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

L: Our impatience for your coming,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

L: our desire to control time and seasons,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

L: Our failure to be alert to signs of your presence in our midst,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

L: Our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

L: Our injustices toward all the people you came to save,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

L: In the mercy of almighty God, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, and the grace to know joy in the Savior’s coming.

**C: Amen.**

## Apostolic Greeting

P: May the One who was, and who is, and who is to come  
be with you in grace and peace.

C: **And also with you.**

## Hymn of Praise for Advent

L: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna in the highest.**

L: You show us your mercy, O Lord,

C: **and you grant us your salvation.**

L: You do not let the needy be forgotten,

C: **nor do you let the hope of the poor be taken away.**

L: Praise be to your holy Name.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus, let your righteousness shine  
upon us, and let the light of your righteousness guide us.**



## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Meditation and Prayer

## Scripture Lessons

### **Romans 16:25-27**

- 25 Now to God who is able to strengthen you  
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,  
according to the revelation of the mystery  
that was kept secret for long ages
- 26 but is now disclosed,  
and through the prophetic writings  
is made known to all the Gentiles,  
according to the command of the eternal God,  
to bring about the obedience of faith—
- 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ,  
to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.



## **The Gospel Reading for this Season of Advent**

L: This is the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C: **O Lord, prepare our minds and hearts  
for the hearing of your Word.**

## **Luke 1:26-38**

- 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
- 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
- 28 And he came to her and said,  
'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.'
- 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
- 30 The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
- 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.
- 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
- 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'
- 34 Mary said to the angel,  
'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'
- 35 The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.
- 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
- 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.'
- 38 Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'  
Then the angel departed from her.



L: This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

**C: O Lord, prepare our spirits so that we will see the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Savior.**

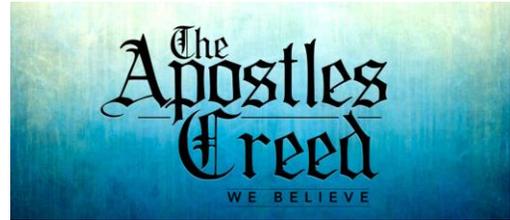
## **Message**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Church** *(Based on the hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

Let us pray to the Lord on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, that the Church, your people Israel, and the whole world may rejoice in the splendor of your appearing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, fill the Church with your Spirit. Sustain and order our proclamation and our works of charity, especially in the presence of our enemies, according to your most holy will. Come, and teach us prudence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Emmanuel, the ransom of your people Israel: deliver also your persecuted Church from torment. Keep all those who are persecuted for your name patient, faithful, and steadfast. Help us to honor their witness and provide for their needs. Turn their tormentors from their evil ways. Come; and teach them courage. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Bright and Morning Star, you gladden the hearts of those who sit in darkness. Shine upon all who are overwhelmed by grief, despair, doubt, anger, confusion, hatred, or

unbelief. Come; and lead them into the brightness of your holy love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, unite all people under your glorious and gentle reign. Teach us those things that make for peace. Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



O Root of Jesse, you stand as an ensign before the peoples. Guard and guide all who stand in harm's way in defense of justice, health, well-being and holy righteousness. Come quickly, defend and deliver them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Key of David, you open what no one can close; you close what no one can open. Free those imprisoned by the powers of sin, evil, and death, especially.... Come, and close the path to misery. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Dayspring, splendor of life everlasting, keep safe in your mighty arms all those who died trusting in your promises. Come and enlighten us, who still sit in the shadow of death; and open wide our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Graciously answer our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Holy Communion**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should at all times  
and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
almighty and merciful God.

**C: You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through who you will also make all things new in the day  
when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.**

P: And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with all the faithful of every time and every place,

**C: we praise your name and join their unending praise.**

P: God of mercy and grace, our eyes wait to look upon you.

**C: Fill us with the good graces of your holy table,  
that we may be graceful and holy with others around us.**



### **The Words of the Institution for Holy Communion**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Redeeming God, through these gifts you gladden our hearts and refresh our spirits.

**C: Grant us eagerness for your advent in our lives as we watch  
for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### **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.**

*(Be seated for the distribution of Holy Communion. An usher will dismiss pews to come forward for Communion. After you receive Communion you may exit the sanctuary by a side aisle, or return to your seat. If you are at home, follow the guidelines provided at the end of this worship document. Remember, you are free to contact the church to make arrangements for you and your household to receive Holy Communion at church.)*

### **Benediction**

L: May the God of peace sanctify you;  
and may you be kept sound and blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

L: Go in peace, and serve the Lord  
with hope-filled anticipation.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



## ***Guidelines for Home Holy Communion during Staying at Home due to Covid-19***

The temporary practice of Home Holy Communion is supported by Bishop Selbo of the NALC, and it is approved by the Church Council of Redeemer Lutheran Church. This is a temporary practice due to the impact of Covid-19 on church attendance. The limited time period will begin on Sunday, November 29, 2020 (the First Sunday in Advent) and go through the month of February. At that time, Pastor will determine if an extension of the practice is called for.

Steps to Follow:

- If you have guests with you, they may join with for Communion. Yet, they need to be baptized Christians. Also, they need to understand that Lutherans believe in “the real presence” of Jesus in the bread and wine of Communion. That is to say,

we believe that the consecrated bread is the body of Christ, and that the consecrated wine is the blood of Christ.

- Before participating with the on-line worship service, set up a small serving of wine or grape juice for each person taking communion with you, and set up the appropriate pieces of bread. Set up only the amount that you are going to use for Holy Communion. You want to avoid having leftovers.

If you do have leftovers, the remaining wine and bread must be disposed of properly in one of two ways. You may drink and eat all the remaining wine and bread that had been set out for Holy Communion. Or, take them outside and pour the wine onto the ground, and bury the bread in the ground. Do not pour the leftover wine down any drain, and do not throw the leftover bread into the trash or garbage. As Lutherans believe that consecrated wine and bread is the body and blood of Christ.

- Participate with the entire on-line worship service.
- After some church members have come forward and received Holy Communion, then join us by taking Holy Communion there in your home.
- As people continue to receive Holy Communion at church, meditate upon God's grace given to you through Jesus Christ, and his Cross.
- Continue to participate with us for the rest of the worship service.

You may still opt for making an arrangement with Pastor to gather as a household at the church in order to receive Holy Communion in the church setting. For the safety of all, masks and social distancing would be used.