

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 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.*

Our Christmas Confession of Sin

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

C: Amen.

P: Compassionate God, trusting in the light of your love for us,
we bring our prayers of confession.

P: God of grace and truth, you give the gift of yourself,

C: but we are often caught up in giving and receiving our own gifts.

P: You offer us new life in the baby born in Bethlehem,

C: but we cloak that birth in sentiment

**and ignore the seriousness of our Lord’s coming—
his calling us to his cross and his renewing life.**

P: You shine in the world,

C: but we dwell on the darkness around us.

P: You came to us in flesh and blood,

C: but we often fail to see you in the human lives beside us.

P: Forgive what we have been, shape who we are,

C: and direct who we shall be, through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

P: We, who have walked in darkness, let us see his great light!

Walk in the assurance of God’s grace and forgiveness.

C: Let us be the people of his light; forgiving and loving one another.

Kyrie

L: Unto us a savior is born.

C: Praise be to the new born King!

L: God has come, and dwells with us.

C: Thanks and praise be to our Lord and God!

L: He has come to die for us,
he has come to live with us.

C: Praise be to our Lord and Savior.



The Christmas Hymn of Praise

P: Holy and loving God,

C: you stir in our hearts and bring joy to our lives.

P: You stir in our minds and bring wisdom to our thoughts;

C: you stir in the world and bring hope to our future.

P: You came as a little child, stirring up our praises,

C: so now we come to adore you with the angels.

P: We come to bow with the shepherds;

C: to kneel in wonder with the magi.

P: We come to ponder your mystery with Joseph;

C: to love and cherish you with Mary.

P: We come to you with humble hearts full of joy

**C: because you come to us this day with the light
of your grace and love, your peace and hope.**

Scripture Lessons

Galatians 4:4-7

- 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law,
- 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.
- 6 And because you are children, God has sent
the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying, 'Abba! Father!'
- 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.



The Gospel Reading

L: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: You have the word of eternal life. Alleluia.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2:22-35

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses,
they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male
shall be designated as holy to the Lord’),

24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the
law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the
consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he
would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,
to do for him what was customary under the law,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.’

33 And the child’s father and mother were
amazed at what was being said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed

35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed
—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’



L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

The 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

O come, let us adore Christ our Lord, and kneel before him with our prayers and supplications.

Father, we praise you for your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Savior. Let Jesus fill us with grace and truth, so that our joy may be complete. Provide the Church with pastors, bishops, and theologians who teach and admonish your people in all wisdom. By the gift of your Spirit, let the Church's every word and deed be in the name of the Lord Jesus, to your glory and for the good of all whom he came to save. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are persecuted for the sake of Jesus. They are your chosen ones, holy and beloved. Adorn them with compassion, meekness, and patience. Let the peace of Christ rule their hearts, so that their tormentors repent, and flee to the Savior for forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make this congregation a company of the upright. Let us delight in, study, and proclaim your mighty works of salvation. Clothe us with love, binding us together in perfect harmony. Let our lives display your redeeming power. Help us to draw our neighbors, friends, and families to faith in your dear Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless grandparents, parents, and all who share with our children the joy of knowing you. Let them cradle little ones in your love and goodness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give our earthly leaders the holy fear that is the beginning of wisdom. Help them to study your works and perform your precepts. Let faithfulness and uprightness, graciousness and mercy, guide those who take counsel for the nations. Bestow upon all peoples the blessings of health, employment, justice, and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



Angels proclaimed peace and good will at Jesus' birth. But many evils still trouble the world. Shield and guide all who risk their lives on behalf of others. Prosper all they do that conforms to your will. Give their loved ones hope and patience. Bring well-being to the wounded, healing to the sickened, and redemption to those who have given their life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be gracious and merciful to all whose lives are shadowed by suffering in this season of light, especially.... Grant that they behold your salvation, dwell in your love, and glorify you in the company of all who love them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Father, you have bestowed on our beloved dead the fullness of your salvation, and we commend them into your care. While we walk the pilgrim-path of life, grant that your dear Son should dwell in us richly, filling us with peace, love, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. For these are the gifts of Christmas that shall last forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, dear Father, for the sake of your dear Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Holy Communion

P: In this holy sacrament God makes a home with us.

C: Let us approach in wonder at all that God has done for us.

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

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we can not see.

And so, with all the ranks of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place, we praise your name and join their unending words of praise:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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: In this meal, O God, we behold your glory and goodness.

C: And you renew us in body and soul.

P: You strengthen us to be true to your calling to serve you,
and to proclaim the good news of your coming to us.

**C: You strengthen us to be true to your calling to serve you,
and to proclaim your redeeming live to all who are in need.**

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 isle, 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.)

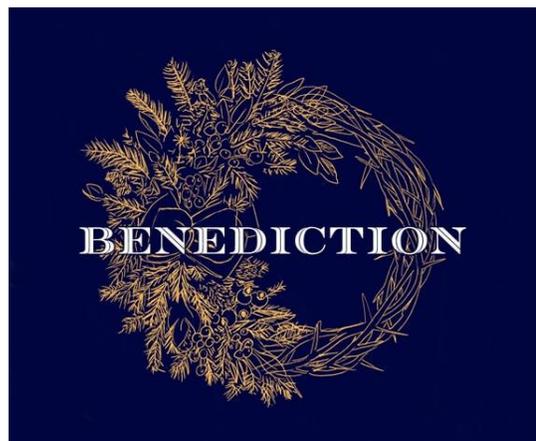
Benediction

P: May God, who in these last days has spoken to us by a Son, bless you.
May Christ, born of Mary, enthroned in a manger, bless you.
May the Holy Spirit, power of the Most High, bless you.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Glory to God in the highest.
C: Peace to God's people on earth.
P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
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.