

Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 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.*

Prelude Music

Of the Father’s Love Begotten (Solo)

The Proclamation of the Gospel (Remain seated)

(The lighting of the Christmas Wreath)

L: In the beginning was the Word.

C: And the Word was with God and the Word was God.

L: In him was light.

C: And the light was the life of all people.

L: The light shines in the darkness.

C: And the darkness has not overcome it.

Our Christmas Confession of Sin

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.

(Please stand)

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.

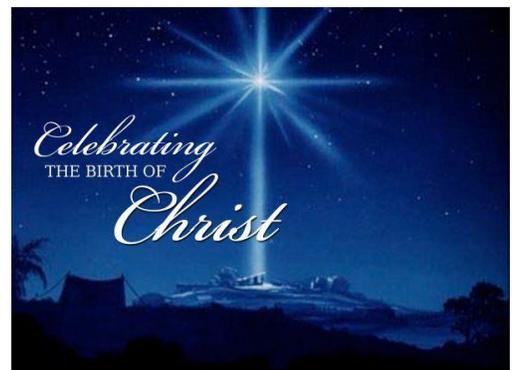
C: Praise be to the new born King!

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.**

Our Prayer for Turning to God's Word

L: God of mystery and manger, as we listen to the familiar story
of your coming among us as a child of flesh and blood,
open our minds and hearts so that we may hear these
wondrous events with renewed understanding, wisdom and joy.

C: Amen.

The Christmas 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.

John 1:1-5, 9-14, and 16-18

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being
- 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

- 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
- 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
- 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
- 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
- 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



- 16 From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace.
- 17 The law indeed was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
- 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,
who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

The Christmas Message

*Understanding the Mystery of Christmas
(A family skit with the Lehman family.)*

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.

O Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: enflesh yourself in your Church. Let all our words and deeds “speak you,” the Living Word. Let the Church be a star of hope, burning in the world’s darkness. By our deeds of mercy, draw many to kneel in awe and wonder before you, and there find life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Jesus, our Emmanuel, you lay your glory aside “to raise each child of earth.” Bring light and life to those who do not know you or believe that you are God, veiled in human flesh. Give them eyes to see your divine love, and hearts to enthrone you as Lord, God, and King. And may they come to know your peace and joy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Heaven-born Prince of Peace, reconcile all peoples and nations, all races and tribes, under your glorious and gentle rule. Lift up all whose forms bend low beneath life’s crushing load. Free them from all that afflicts them. Make us all, from greatest to least, children of your light, and partakers of your peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



O Savior of our fallen race, bestow a measure of your peace to all who stand in harm’s way, protecting others, in this death-shadowed world. Renew their courage; purify their hearts; and use their labors to bring hope and healing in communities fractured by hatred and violence, torment of body and illness of spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Savior, child of Mary, you felt our human woe. Bring healing, peace, and hope to all who suffer and to all who mourn, even on this holy and joyful night. O Sun of Righteousness, rise upon them with healing in your wings! Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Savior, King of Glory, you have triumphed over our ancient foes: sin, evil, and death. Thank you for your love, which guarded, guided, and kept our loved ones in your care

until their life's end. And now, Lord Jesus, dearest friend: Bring us at length to heaven and into your endless day. With all whom you have redeemed, let us praise, adore, and delight in you; for with your Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign forever and ever and unto the ages of ages. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be near us, Lord Jesus; and hear when we pray. Stay by us forever and love us always. Bless all your dear children in your tender care. And fit us for heaven, to dwell with you there. **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 love 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.

Instrumentalist are offering up a medley of Christmas hymns for worship. Enjoy listening to, and meditating upon, the music.)

Christmas Eve Candle Light

Silent Night by Instruments

L: In the beginning was the Word.

**C: And the Word was with God
and the Word was God.**

L: In him was light.

C: And the light was the life of all people.

L: The light shines in the darkness.

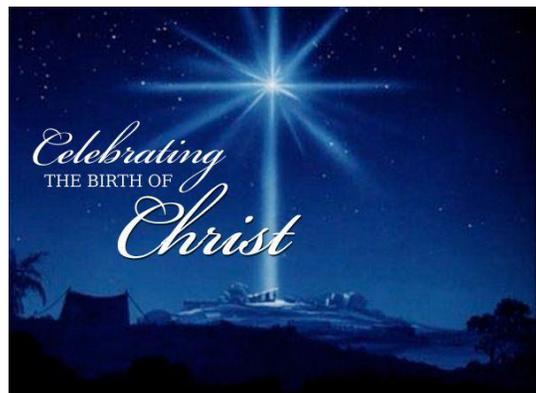
C: And the darkness has not overcome it.

L: Unto us a savior is born.

C: Praise be to the new born King!

(Light up your candles at this time.)

Silent Night (Solo)



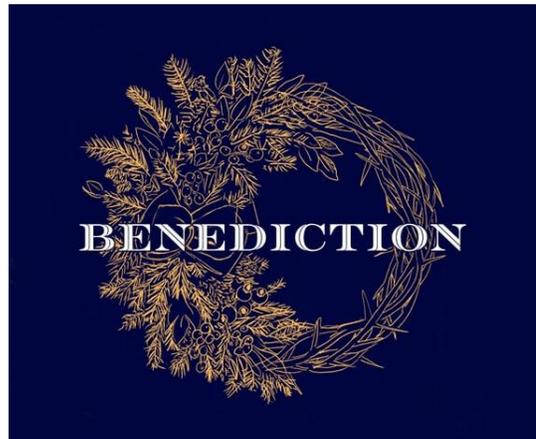
Benediction

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.**



Postlude Music

Silent Night

*A heartfelt thanks to our soloist and musicians:
Diana Johnson-Zornow
Pam Grandmaison
Julie Townsend*

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.