



OUR REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, established in 1924



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Day

Monday, 25 December A+D 2023 • 9:00 A.M.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

420 W. Breitung Ave.

Kingsford, MI 49802

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Rev. Matthew D. Ruesch, Pastor
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ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Order of Service:	<i>LSB</i> , Divine Service, Setting Three, pg. 184
Hymns:	380, 382, 624, 367, 387
Sermon Title:	"The Word of Life, Light, and Flesh"
Sermon Text:	John 1:1-14

WELCOME TO OUR REDEEMER

WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU WITH US TODAY AS WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S GIFTS OF FORGIVENESS, LIFE, AND SALVATION. If you are with us for the first time, please take a moment to introduce yourself to our pastor. Should you be looking for a church home, please indicate so when you sign the Record of Fellowship tablet. We would love to take the opportunity to tell you more about our congregation and what it means to be a part of the people of God here in the Twin Cities area.

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: In the Sacrament of the Altar, our Lord Jesus Christ gives us His very Body and Blood to eat and drink. Receiving the Sacrament is not merely a matter between God and the person, but a "communion," something done in "community." It is a public confession of our faith and expression of the unity that exists between Christians. Because of these reasons, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church practices closed communion. We invite those who are members in good standing of LCMS congregations to join us at the altar today. All those communing for the first time should speak with the pastor before doing so.



PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR: Christ offers His very body and blood, with the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. Those who come before the holy altar of God to receive this body and blood do so having prepared to receive this holy gift.

1. Have you confessed your sins before God in heaven? (See the Ten Commandments, *LSB* page 321.)
2. Are you able to come forward in a spirit of unity with those communing with you? (See 1 Corinthians 1:10; 11:18-19.)
3. Do you share the confession of faith proclaimed in this congregation and church body? (See Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 11:26.)
4. Do you believe that this bread and wine is truly the body and blood of Christ? (See *LSB*, page 326, "What is the Sacrament of the Altar?")
5. Do you believe that this body and blood are given for your forgiveness, life, and salvation? (See *LSB* page 327, "What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?")

**Our Redeemer is a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
To learn more about The LCMS, visit www.lcms.org.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE that there is no Catechism Vespers or Wednesday Evening Divine Service on 12/27.

THERE IS NO EDUCATION HOUR NEXT SUNDAY. Adult Bible study, Youth Group, and Sunday school will resume on Sunday, January 7th. **THERE IS NO BIBLE STUDY** this Thursday, December 28th.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now in your mailbox. If you did not receive envelopes and would like them or do not have a mailbox and would like one, please contact Claire in the church office at (906) 774-1844 or at secretary@ourredeemerkingsford.org.

BOTTLES/CANS: The Youth Group wants your bottles and cans! You may drop off your bottles/cans at the church entrance bottle bin.

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR—Christmas Day: Jesus brought God delicately amidst sinners, as humble in crucifixion as He was helpless in conception. Yet this estate did not hinder but, in fact, heralded the full realm and reign of God for us. And thereby He reaffirmed the worth of even the feeblest human beings. God's gift of life arrives all the better for the plain packaging He habitually hides it behind. *Prayer: Lamb of God, make it so that our taking hold of You leads us to cradle Your little ones as well. Amen.*

"THIS TIME OF THE YEAR ALWAYS FILLS US WITH CHEER | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the gift from above!" *Jerrod Nelson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

	<u>MUSIC</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>
<u>Week of 12/24</u>			
Sunday, 9:00 A.M.	Digital Music	Rob Kuehl	Sue Rochon
Sunday, 7:00 P.M.	Digital Music	Jim Reed	Sue Rochon
Monday, 9:00 A.M.	Digital Music	Jim Reed	Sue Rochon

<u>Week of 12/31</u>			
Sunday, 9:00 A.M.	Digital Music	Gary Peterson	Jenna Long
Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.	Digital Music	Jim Sleik	Jenna Long

THIS WEEK AT OUR REDEEMER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sunday (24)	9:00 A.M.	Divine Service
	7:00 P.M.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons & Carols
Monday (25)	9:00 A.M.	Christmas Day Divine Service
Tuesday (26)		
Wednesday (27)		
Thursday (28)		
Friday (29)		Pastor's Day Off
Saturday (30)		
Sunday (31)	9:00 A.M.	Divine Service

GIVING REPORT & BUDGET UPDATE

<u>WEEKLY OFFERINGS</u>		<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>	
Last Week Offering:	\$2,158.15	Year-to-Date Offerings:	\$136,622.24
Other Income and Gifts:	\$994.30	Other Income and Gifts:	\$24,037.7
Total Income This Week:	\$3,182.45	Total Income This Year:	\$160,659.94
Needed for Budget:	\$3,346.24	Needed for Budget:	\$167,311.00
Difference:	<u>-\$163.79</u>	Difference:	<u>-\$6,651.06</u>

ATTENDANCE REPORT

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Sunday, 12/17, 9:00 A.M.	91	79

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Day

Monday, 25 December A+D 2023 • 9:00 A.M.

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Three, pg. 184

Confession and Absolution

HYMN OF INVOCATION

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB 380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" *Refrain*

Refrain Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

- 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! *Refrain*

- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

INTROIT

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

- P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
C and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
P and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
C **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things
C **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**
P The LORD has made known his salvation;
C **he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
C **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**
P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
C **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
C ♫ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.
P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
C and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
P and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
C **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

KYRIE

LSB 186

- C** ♫ **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 187

- P** ♫ **Glory be to God on high:**
C ♫ **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P ♪ The Lord be with you.

C ♪ And with thy spirit.

P ♪ Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪ Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38

P The Old Testament Reading for the Nativity of Our Lord is from Exodus, chapter 40.

¹⁷In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 118:26a, 27a, 23

P Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

C The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

P This is the LORD's doing;

C it is marvelous in our eyes.

EPISTLE

Titus 3:4–7

P The Epistle is from Titus, chapter 3.

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Liturgical Text; LSB 190

P Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord. Alleluia.

C ♪ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–14

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

C ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C ♪ **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
 dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
 glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

"We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth" LSB 382

- 1 We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth;
 Clothed in flesh You came to earth.
 The virgin bears a sinless boy
 And all the angels sing for joy.
 Alleluia!

- 2 Now in the manger we may see
 God's Son from eternity,
 The gift from God's eternal throne

Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.
Alleluia!

3 The virgin Mary's lullaby
Calms the infant Lord Most High.
Upon her lap content is He
Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.
Alleluia!

4 The Light Eternal, breaking through,
Made the world to gleam anew;
His beams have pierced the core of night,
He makes us children of the light.
Alleluia!

5 The very Son of God sublime
Entered into earthly time
To lead us from this world of cares
To heaven's courts as blessed heirs.
Alleluia!

6 In poverty He came to earth
Showing mercy by His birth;
He makes us rich in heav'nly ways
As we, like angels, sing His praise.
Alleluia!

7 All this for us our God has done
Granting love through His own Son.
Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice
And sing His praise with endless voice.
Alleluia!

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SERMON

“The Word of Life, Light, and Flesh” John 1:1-14

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 192

C ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

LSB 194

P ♪ The Lord be with you.

C ♪ And with thy spirit.

P ♪ Lift up your hearts.

C ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.

P ♪ Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C ♪ It is meet and right so to do.

P ♪ It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 195

C ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 196

P ♪ 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.
C ♪ For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and
ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

P ♪ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread,
and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and
said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in
remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given
thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the
new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness
of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

LSB 197

P ♪ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C ♪ Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

✪ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"The Infant Priest Was Holy Born" LSB 624

- 1 The infant Priest was holy born
For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He,
Anointed from eternity.
- 2 This great High Priest in human flesh
Was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;
His hand removed impurity.
- 3 The holy Lamb undaunted came
To God's own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes,
This Priest became a sacrifice.
- 4 But death would not the victor be
Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place
Within the veil, before God's face.
- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee

Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.

- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" LSB 367

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain*

Refrain Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,

Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

△ 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the _eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

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Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

☐ ♪ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

LSB 200

☐ ♪ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
☐ ♪ and His mercy endureth forever.

☐ ♪ Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☐ ♪ Amen.

☐ ♪ The Lord be with you.

☐ ♪ And with thy spirit.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 202

P ♪ Bless we the Lord.

C ♪ Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 202

P ♪ The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

HYMN TO DEPART

"Joy to the World" LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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