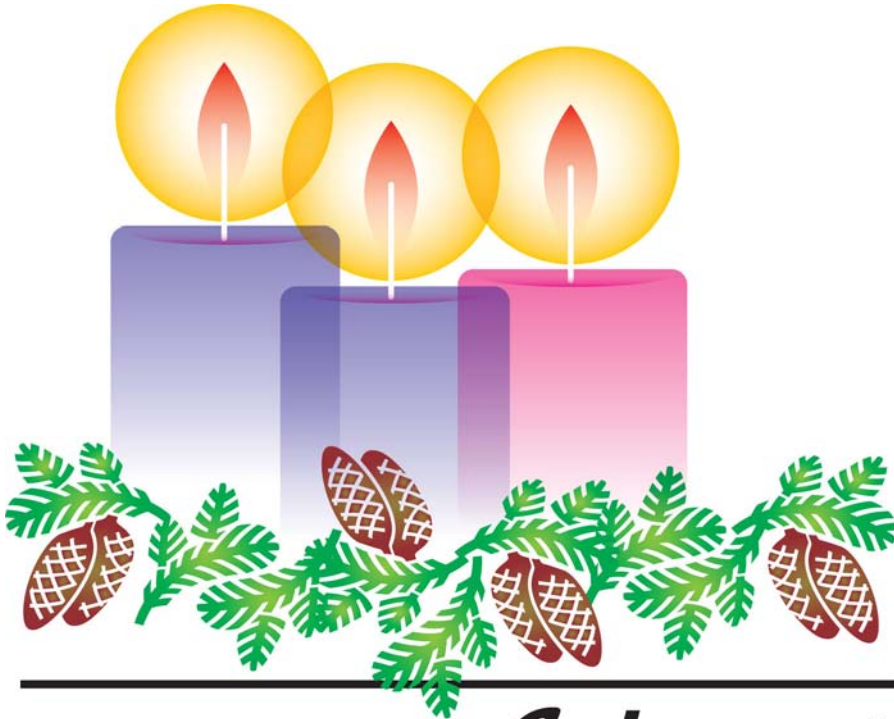


# SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION

DECEMBER 17, 2023, 11:00AM  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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**OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
105 GATESHEAD DRIVE, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3101 724-941-7467  
orlc@comcast.net [www.OurRedeemer-peters.org](http://www.OurRedeemer-peters.org)

# **WORSHIP SERVICES**

5:30pm, Saturday

9:00 and 11:00am, Sunday (11:00am livestreamed)

An area is available in the narthex for parents and young children.

The service is broadcast to the narthex. The volume may be adjusted by turning the knob on the wall near the left sanctuary doors.

Online services are available through  
facebook.com/ORLutheran, YouTube and the church's website.

## **GROWING IN GOD (SUNDAY SCHOOL)**

**September 24 - May 5, 10:00 AM, Age 3-Adults**

### **STAFF**

**THE REV. KEVIN CLEMENTSON, INTERIM PASTOR**

443-699-8534 (cell), kcclementson@yahoo.com

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**MARY HELEN BARR, MUSIC DIRECTOR - 412-780-3357 (cell)**

**ELAINE DOLCICH, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

**THE REV. JOHN F. YEDLICKA, PASTOR EMERITUS**

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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

"As Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is a community of people believing in Jesus Christ, our overall purpose is to worship, teach, serve, evangelize and witness to that belief."

*Welcome to worship! Please pass the fellowship pads down your row at this time. If you are a visitor and would like more information about our church, please include your address and phone number.*

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*This morning we celebrate the baptism of Logan James and Madison Grace Schnieders, children of Matthew and Jennifer Schnieders. Sponsoring Logan and Madison are Theodore Schnieders and Jacquelyn Gardner. As a part of the Body of Christ, we also share in the responsibility to support these children as they grow in faith; therefore, let us also participate in the baptismal liturgy.*

P God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

P Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Logan James and Madison Grace baptized into Christ?

**Parents: I do.**

P As you bring Logan and Madison to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:  
to live with them among God's faithful people,  
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in their hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture them in faith and prayer,  
so that they may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

P Do you promise to help Logan and Madison grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Parents: I do.**

P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Logan James and Madison Grace in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Sponsors: I do.**

P People of God, do you promise to support Logan James and Madison Grace and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

C **We do.**

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**Parents and Sponsors: I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**Parents and Sponsors: I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Parents and Sponsors: I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Logan James, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Logan James with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Logan James, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C **Amen.**

P Madison Grace, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Madison Grace with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Madison Grace, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C **Amen.**

Congregational Representative: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P Let us welcome our new siblings in Christ.

C **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*Stand*

# GATHERING SONG, *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*, #265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Glo - ri - a!

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
 C **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray.  
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

*Sit*

## WORD

**FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16** (Pew Bible page 245)

- L A reading from the second book of Samuel.

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

- L The word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**



## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SONG: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, #257, v. 1

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## LITANY

- P At every beginning there is a yearning  
for the one who is coming.  
O Emmanuel,  
C **Open us up to your coming.**
- P We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes  
to be reshaped by God's promises.  
O Emmanuel,  
C **Open us up to your coming.**
- P We wait for the day  
when God will make for us a future  
that is no longer predicated on our fear.  
O Emmanuel,  
C **Open us up to your coming.**

P We find a new receptivity within us  
that desires God's will over our own will  
and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it.  
O Emmanuel,

C **Open us up to your coming**

P Jesus, we welcome your presence now  
with the lighting of these candles,  
whose flames bring warmth to winter  
and fill this place with the glow of hope.

C **Amen.**

*Three candles are lit.*

**SONG:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, #257, v. 4

4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain* Re - jice! Re - jice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

**SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27** (Pew Bible page 926)

A A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

<sup>25</sup>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 <sup>26</sup>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—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38** (Pew Bible page 831)

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

*Stand*

### HYMN OF THE DAY, *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, #251*



- 1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
- 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
- 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

- A You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,
- C **receive our prayer.**
- A As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,
- C **receive our prayer.**
- A You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God,
- C **receive our prayer.**
- A Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill especially Joe, Mandy, Sally, Brian, Clint, Carol, Lori, Chris, Jen, Gary, Randy, and those we name out loud and in our hearts. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,
- C **receive our prayer.**
- A You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,
- C **receive our prayer.**
- A Almighty God, pour out your baptismal blessings upon Logan and Madison, their parents and sponsors, that they may grow in faith and service to you, always bearing witness to your gracious love. Merciful God,
- C **receive our prayer.**
- A Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,
- C **receive our prayer.**

P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.  
C **Amen.**

*Sit*

## **MEAL**

### **OFFERING AND MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Our monetary offerings are part of our worship of God. Because so many of our people give their offerings through Simply Giving, the offering plate is not passed, but located in the back of the sanctuary for your use as you enter or leave the sanctuary. One plate is brought forward at the time of the Offertory, and one remains in the back.*

**ANTHEM:** *Hope is Dawning on the World*

### **PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

*Stand*



OFFERING SONG, *We Are an Offering*, #692

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. There are two triplets marked with a '3' and a slur. The lyrics are: 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.'

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our  
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our  
hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.  
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we  
give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our  
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- A Let us pray.  
God our provider,  
by your merciful hand  
abundance springs up from the earth.  
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.  
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love  
and faithfulness for all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first three staves are divided into two parts: 'Leader' and 'Congregation'. The fourth staff is for 'All'. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The first staff has the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And also with you.' The second staff has 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has 'Let us give thanks to the Lord, to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

Leader Congregation

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Leader Congregation

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Leader Congregation

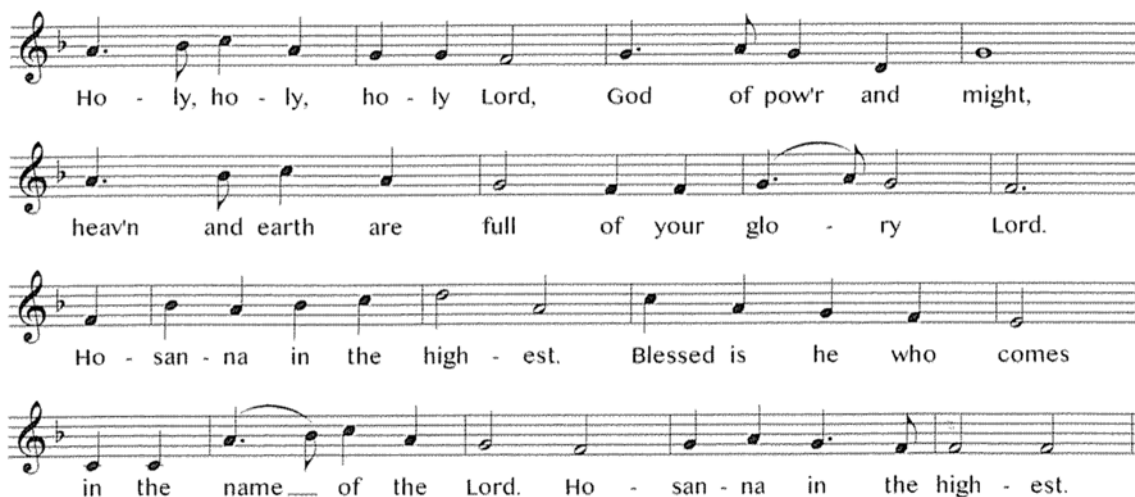
Let us give thanks to the Lord, to the Lord our God.

All

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- 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,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**C        Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.  
Come, take your place at the table.

*Sit*

## SHARING OF HOLY COMMUNION

*As Lutherans, we believe that Christ is really present in the bread and wine we share. All are welcome to commune here. Infants and others who do not commune are invited to come forward and receive a blessing.*

*Please take a communion glass from the ushers on your way forward. As the pastors and lay assistants give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant: The body of Christ, given for you; the blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen. Wine is offered by Communion Assistants holding the silver chalices. Grape juice is offered by the third Communion Assistant on either side holding the pottery chalice. (The grape juice is purple.)*

*Gluten-free wafers are available from the pastors. Let them know that you need one when you come forward to receive the bread.*

**COMMUNION SONG: *What Feast of Love*, #487**



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
 What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?  
 What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

*Stand*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.  
**C** **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- A Let us pray.  
Generous God,  
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory  
for all people to see together.  
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim  
your good news of liberation and release,  
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

- P The God of peace bless you,  
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,  
and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you  
now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**, next page, *Canticle of the Turning*, #723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

### **DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **THIS WEEK AT “OUR REDEEMER”**

### **SUNDAY, December 17, 2023, Third Sunday of Advent**

- 9:00am     Worship
- 10:00am    Growing in God
- 10:00am    Adult Class
- 11:00am    Worship
- 12:00pm    Church Decorating
- 4:00pm     Quiet Christmas Service

### **MONDAY, December 18, 2023**

- 9:00am     Noah’s Ark Preschool

### **TUESDAY, December 19, 2023**

- 9:00am     Noah’s Ark Preschool

### **WEDNESDAY, December 20, 2023**

- Newsletter Deadline
- 9:00am     Noah’s Ark Preschool
- 7:00pm     Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, December 21, 2023**

- 9:00AM     Decorating for Breakfast at the Manger

### **FRIDAY, December 22, 2023**

### **SATURDAY, December 23, 2023**

- 10:00am    Breakfast at the Manger
- No Saturday evening worship

### **SUNDAY, December 24, 2023, Christmas Eve**

- 10:00am    Breakfast at the Manger
- 4:30pm     Children’s Christmas Eve
- 7:00pm     Christmas Eve Worship
- 11:00pm    Christmas Eve Worship

### **MONDAY, December 25, 2023, Christmas Day**

- No Christmas Day worship



## Breakfast at the Manger

**Saturday, Dec. 23**  
**10am**

**Sunday, Dec. 24**  
**10am**



decoration/set-up on Thursday, December 21, and with food set up/clean up on the days of the events. Plan to sign up by Monday, December 18.

Gather with us for food and fellowship on **Saturday, December 23 at 10am or Sunday, December 24 at 10am** as we hear the story of "The Noisy Night"! This year, this event will take place twice, so that we have capacity to invite friends, Noah's Ark families, and community members. Church members may attend either day, and are encouraged to provide an item for breakfast on one or both days - breakfast breads (no peanuts; label for other nuts), fruit, cereal, and yogurt are good options! Help is needed for

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joe Maize, Mandy Jarosh, Sally Lowery Ferko, Brian Casper, Clint Langley, Carol Brandyberry, Lori Gajdowski, Chris Decker, Jen Barbati, Gary McGaffic, Randy Stonemark, and those friends and family members who have asked for our prayers: Mike Zgorliski, Ron Rieger, Kerwin Broman, Mike Engman, Kayden Spencer, Marcy Raeford, Nancy Lyons, Nancy Adams, Robert Ruppel, Kevin Ruppel, Lydia Damoose, Lisa Kilgore, Laura Norton, Anthony Santaguida, Judy Concannon, Ray Keisling, Dan Stimmel, Tamara Brister, Wendy Brosky, Heidi Garner, Janice Poole, and Nester Miskow.

*The most recently added names appear at the beginning of the lists and will remain for 3 months. You may remove a name sooner or ask for renewal if a person is still in need of prayer after the three months. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please submit your request in writing and place in the offering plate, drop off in the church office, or submit by email to [orlc@comcast.net](mailto:orlc@comcast.net).*

This weekend's altar flowers have been given by Andrew and Carol Ausefski in loving memory of our Grandson Brian on his December 22nd birthday.

**2024 Altar Flowers** - The 2024 Flower Chart can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex (Lobby). The cost for the flowers will remain \$58.00 per week. Flowers are a great way to honor or remember a loved one. You are welcome to sign up for a week that has special meaning for you and either pay now or on the actual date.

## New Worship Assistance Needed

We are very much in need of additional people to help with the worship services at Our Redeemer! As our congregation returns to multiple worship services, we need additional communion assistants, lectors, ushers, greeters, gift bearers and worship assistants. These roles take place during the worship service. Some of them require arriving ahead of the scheduled service while some take place only during the worship service itself. Our Redeemer has wonderful volunteers, but some of the long-time volunteers are no longer available due to life changes. (We are especially in need of communion assistants at the 4:30pm service on Christmas Eve. Perhaps you could give it a try!) Please prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to try something new in order to support the worship life of our community. If you are willing to give it a try, please email Elaine at [orlc@comcast.net](mailto:orlc@comcast.net) or speak with one of the pastors. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



This year, we are offering a special worship opportunity for all who would like to step away from busyness, the lights, the shopping, the movies, the baking, the eating, and all that our Christmas has come to include. Take some time to ponder...what is this love of God that came to us in Jesus? How does Jesus' birth in this world make a difference for each of us and for this entire broken world? Join us for prayer, song, and reflection that will bring calm and offer a refocus as the holiday draws near.

### Event Sign-ups



Scan the QR code to visit the online "bulletin board" and sign up for upcoming events at Our Redeemer!

*Sign up for all events on the bulletin board, through our website, [www.OurRedeemer-peters.org](http://www.OurRedeemer-peters.org), or scan the QR code to the left. For Online Giving, scan the QR code to the right.*

### Online Giving



Scan the QR code to support the mission and ministry of Our Redeemer by giving an offering online.

# *Christmas Eve Worship*

Sunday, December 24

## **4:30pm - Children's Christmas Eve**

*With songs and a retelling of the Christmas story, we celebrate the birth of Jesus in an interactive way.*

## **7pm - Christmas Eve Worship**

*A full worship service with carols, candlelight, and communion.*

## **11pm - Christmas Eve Worship**

*A full worship service with carols, candlelight, and communion.*



**Pub Theology** - All adults are welcome to join in great fellowship and lively conversation around topics of interest in our daily lives each month at the Voodoo Brewing Company in Houston, PA. Our next gathering will be on **Thursday, December 28**.

**Young Adult Gathering** - Young adults (age 18-30ish) are invited to gather at the church on **Tuesday, January 2 at 6:30pm** for pizza and games. Sign up online or on the bulletin board.

**Interested in Joining Our Redeemer?  
Maybe you would just like to learn more about the congregation?**

There will be a new members class held on **January 28 from 1 to 3 PM**. The class will also be available for people who would simply like to know more about the congregation. Please let us know if you would like to participate in this class. New members will be received on February 3 or 4. To let us know of your interest please contact the church office at [orlc@comcast.net](mailto:orlc@comcast.net) or talk with one of the pastors.

**Donations for City Mission & Blessings in a Backpack**

The Service and Outreach Committee continues to collect everyday items that are needed by families in our area.

The City Mission reports needing all kinds of food, but particularly spaghetti sauce, noodles, cereal, canned meats, peanut butter and jelly, Ramen noodles, and diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6). The City Mission also is happy to receive gloves, mittens, and hats throughout the winter.

Blessings in a Backpack serving Ringgold Elementary School North is in need of microwavable cups of Chef Boyardee mac and cheese style pastas, applesauce or fruit cups/squeeze pouches, and snack size boxes of raisins.

**Monthly City Mission Delivery Drivers Needed**

Our Redeemer delivers the food that our congregation donates once a month to the City Mission in Washington. Deliveries are made on a Tuesday or Thursday between 10am and 3pm (at your convenience and depending upon the amount of donations to be delivered). You can sign up for a particular month(s) on the sheet on the bulletin board or contact the church office. We have a few faithful people who volunteer in this way. They would be very happy to have a few new volunteers!

**Food Helpers**

Join us on **Tuesday, January 16** (snow date January 18 if needed) from 10am-noon at the CNX building at Southpointe to pack some bags of nutritious snacks for elementary students in Washington County as part of the Little Moochi program. This program promotes healthy eating habits in kids through nutritious snacks and the Little Moochi app developed by CMU. Please sign up on the bulletin board or online by January 11 so that the list can be provided to CNX Security prior to the holiday weekend.

## **2024 Our Redeemer Annual Meeting**

Please note that the announced date of the Annual Meeting has been changed to allow more time for year-end reports to be prepared. The Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 28 at 10:00am in the Sanctuary**. Reports are due no later than January 14. All members of Our Redeemer are urged to participate in the Annual Meeting. This will be an important year in our life together, so we need your support!

## **New Council Members are Needed**

Would you or someone you know be a good council member? We are seeking to fill several seats for a term beginning in February, 2024. A good council member will have these qualities: be an active member of ORLC, care about the future of Our Redeemer, be willing to share in making ministry happen, and be open to exploring new ideas.

Council meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. (In February there will be a council retreat day here at the church on February 24 from 9:30am to 2:30pm in place of the monthly meeting.) Each council member also relates to one of the ministry committees and is asked to serve periodically as a teller. It is the council's goal to have a balance of membership regarding gender, time at ORLC, and skills to share.

For more details or if you'd like to be considered or want to suggest someone, please talk with a current council member or one of the pastors.

## **Financial Commitments for 2024 Ministry**

Thank you to all who have returned your 2024 Financial Commitment form. We truly appreciate the strong support that is being offered for the ministry of Our Redeemer. If you have not yet returned your form, please do so by Christmas. If personal circumstances change, commitments can be changed as needed. These commitment forms will help us in the budgeting process for the coming year. Thank you for returning them as soon as possible.

## **THIS SUNDAY'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE (DECEMBER 17, 2023)**

### **9:00am**

ACOLYTE - *Child volunteer requested*  
LAY ASSISTANT - Mark Harris  
LECTOR - Tim Prex  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS - Tina  
    Borra, Kim Chupinka, Debbie Healey  
    Langley, Garrett Langley, Susan  
    Loeser, Phyllis Permar  
GREETER - Dianne Rigby  
USHERS - Clint Langley and Ken Rigby  
GIFT BEARERS - Eliza and Norah Prex  
ALTAR GUILD - Tina Borra and Laura  
    Culp  
POWERPOINT - Gary Milavec

### **11:00am**

ACOLYTE - Henry Binotto  
LAY ASSISTANT - Lori Greene  
LECTOR - Karen Smith  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS - Eliana  
    and Jackie Beck, Brenda Binotto,  
    Barb Hrabar, Susan O'Brien, Sally  
    Ruppel  
GREETER - Susan O'Brien  
USHERS - Jacob Casper and Doug  
    Meley  
GIFT BEARER - Jack Binotto  
ALTAR GUILD - Barb Hrabar and Sally  
    Ruppel  
POWERPOINT - Rolf Otterness  
CAMERA - Sam Mizia  
TELLERS (Monday) - Carol Locher and  
    Larry Day

## **CHRISTMAS EVE MINISTRY SCHEDULE (DECEMBER 24, 2023)**

### **4:30pm**

ACOLYTE - Jack Binotto

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS - Brenda and Peter Binotto, Karen Glass, Linda Nickles,  
volunteers needed

GREETER - Linda Nickles

USHERS - Doug Meley and volunteers needed

GIFT BEARER - Henry Binotto

ALTAR GUILD - Volunteers need

### **7:00pm**

ACOLYTE - Jaclyn Capezzuto

LAY ASSISTANT - Susan Loeser

LECTOR - Caroline Langley

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS - Missy Bookhammer, Debbie Healey Langley,  
Rochelle Koerbel, Juliette Langley, Keith and Ruth Ann Lowery

GREETER - Karen Smith

USHERS - Mike, Austin and Zach Koerbel and Clint Langley

GIFT BEARER - Juliette Langley

ALTAR GUILD - Susan Loeser and Sally Ruppel

LIGHTS - Garrett Langley

POWERPOINT - Karen Glass

CAMERA - Sam Mizia

### **11:00pm**

ACOLYTE - *Child volunteer requested*

LAY ASSISTANT - Mark Harris

LECTOR - Kim Maize

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS - Maegan Bregenser, Gerda Moul, Carl and Sally  
Ruppel, Mohylyn and Olivia Yocca

GREETER - Sebastian Yocca

USHERS - Joe Maize and John Yocca

GIFT BEARER - Sebastian Yocca

ALTAR GUILD - Becky Long and volunteer

LIGHTS - Garrett Langley

POWERPOINT - Xander King

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