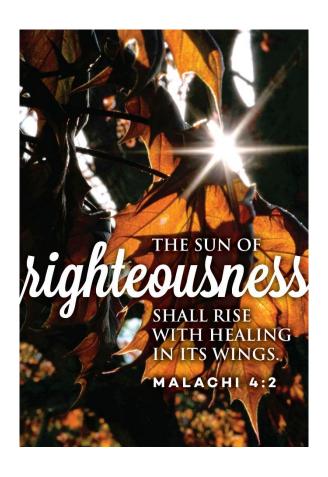
# REDEMPTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Second Sunday in Advent





#### Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

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#### **Pre-Service Meditation:**

**Malachi 4:2** But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, let the Sun of righteousness shine brightly in our hearts. Let it bring healing to our sin-darkened heart so that we may reflect the glory and love you have shown to the world. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forevermore, Amen.

## Service of the Word

## **Opening Prayer**

## Opening Hymn

#### TLH 95 Savior of the Nations Come

Invocation: Psalm 84:1-4

P: How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

C: My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;

P: My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,

C: Where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

P: Blessed are those who dwell in Your house,

C: Ever singing Your praise!

P Caesar August decreed that his subjects were to return to their ancestral hometowns to register: "And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem,

C "Because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child."

P We lit the second candle on our Advent wreath as a reminder of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, where the Savior would be born.

C Lord and Savior, light our journey of faith until we rejoice forever in Your presence!

#### Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, we confess that we have turned away from Your will for us. We do not follow Your commandments and we daily sin against You in our thoughts, words and actions. We seek to satisfy our own sinful desires and listen to the temptations of the world around us. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

P: God has had mercy on us. He sent His Son to be our Savior. Jesus suffered, died and rose from death for us. Through faith in His

name we will have a home in His presence forever. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!

#### Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

#### Hymn Response: TLH 97 Let Us All With Gladsome Voice

Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven, Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness, That with Him in heaven's fair homes We may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder? Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.

#### Old Testament Lesson

Malachai 4:1-6

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup> But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup> And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>4</sup> "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. <sup>5</sup> "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of

children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

#### Responsive Psalm:

Psalm 50

- P The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- P Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.
- He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people:
- "Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!"
- The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!
- P I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is Mine.
- "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are Mine.
- P Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,
- and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

#### **Epistle Lesson**

2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these

things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

## **Gospel Lesson**

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered 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 called holy-- the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."

# **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father

Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,

Hymn

**TLH 92 Now Sing We Now Rejoice** 

Sermon

Malachi 4:1-6

God's Love at Christmas
God's Saving Love Stirs up My Heart

the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

#### Vs. 4 Let Us All With Gladsome Voice

O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us. Grant us now a glad new year, Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Hymn

**TLH 106 The People That in Darkness Sat** 

Offering

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Words of Institution** 

**Distribution** (What Child is This will be sung during Distribution by the Soloist)

Benediction

C Amen.

Hymn

TLH 56 Jesus Came the Heavens Adoring

#### Acknowledgments

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<u>WELCOME</u> To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.

#### **Announcements**

## **Upcoming Events:**

- <u>Bible Class Schedule:</u> We are continuing our watching of *A*Man Named Martin. We will continue to watch part 2 while taking up 1 article from the Glad You Asked Series. We are on the article titled: What is the Headship Principle?
- <u>Christmas VBS:</u> Thank you to everyone who was able to help with the Christmas VBS yesterday.
- <u>Christmas Eve:</u> Will be Sunday Evening at 5 pm. There will be no Christmas Day service on Monday.
- <u>Favorite Christmas Hymns:</u> There is a sheet on the table in the narthex that you can write down your favorite Christmas hymns that you would like to sing during the upcoming Christmas season.

#### **CALL NEWS:**

- Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran of Saginaw, MI is considering the call from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI along with St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI
- Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia SC, is considering the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN
- Michaela Winters, teacher at Messiah Lutheran School in Hales Corners, WI is resigning at the end of this school year in order to spend more time with her infant daughter

## **Upcoming Schedule:**

Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> Advent Candlelight Service at 7 PM Sunday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Redemption Sunday Service at 9

Sunday Dec. 24th Children's Christmas Eve Service at 5 PM

