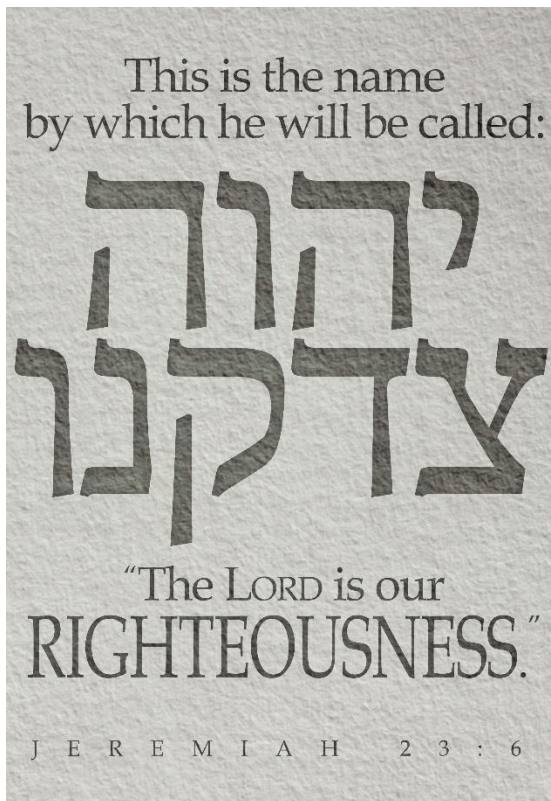
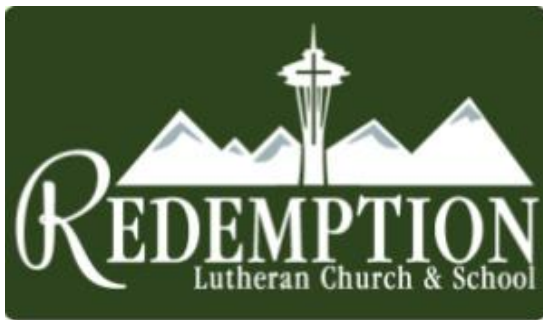


REDEMPTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

First Sunday in Advent





Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

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Pre-Service Meditation:

Jeremiah 23:6 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, by Your great love and mercy you sent Jesus to be our a branch of righteousness that, through faith in Him, we might be grafted onto the tree of eternal life. Continue to bless us with spiritual security in His righteousness. 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 68 The Advent of Our King

Confession and Absolution:

P: Dearly beloved! We have come together today to thank God for His Gift of love which He presented to the world in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, born at Bethlehem as our Savior. We also want to prepare ourselves for Jesus' Second Coming into the world on the Last Day. Oh, come let us worship Him! Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker! As we come into God's presence to worship and hear His Word, let us also join in making confession of our sins and then receive forgiveness from God's abundant mercy.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy Law. We have done those things which we should not have done. We have left undone those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and returning Lord. Amen.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven you all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His beloved child. Children of God, your sins are forgiven you. Go and sin no more.

C: Amen.

The Responsory:

P: Behold, your King is coming to you, His Church.

C: "For where two or three are gathered together in My name,
there I am in the midst of them."

P: "If anyone loves me He will keep My Word and My Father will love him,

C: And We will come to him and make Our home with him."

P: Behold, He shall come, says the LORD of Hosts.

Congregational Stanza: TLH 70

**Hosanna to the living Lord! Hosanna to the Incarnate Word!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King, Let earth, let heaven, hosanna
sing.**

P: Behold, your King is coming to you.

Even the Angel of the Lord, Whom you delight in,

**C: For we have been built on the foundation of the apostles and
prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief Cornerstone,**

**P: In Whom the whole building, being joined together,
grows into a holy temple in the Lord,**

**C: In whom we also are being built together
for a habitation of God in the Spirit.**

P: Behold, He shall come, says the LORD of Hosts.

Stanza:

**O Savior with protecting care Abide in this Your house of
prayer, Where we Your parting promise claim, Assembled in Your
holy Name.**

P: Behold, your King is coming to you in the Christmas Gospel.

**C: All things were made by Him, and without Him nothing was
made that was made.**

**P: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld
His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of
grace and truth.**

C: And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

P: Behold, He shall come, says the LORD of Hosts.

Stanza:

**O Advent King, our sins forgive; Come in our lives and hearts to
live, And let our humble souls become A temple worthy of Your
name.**

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 23:1-8

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. 2 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. 3 Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4 I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. 5 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' 7 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' 8 but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 95 (selected verses)

- P** The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,
- C** for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.
- P** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?
- C** He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
- P** Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors
- C** that the King of glory may come in.
- P** Who is this King of glory?

C The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD,
mighty in battle!

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient
doors

C that the King of glory may come in.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:5-25

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. 8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." 18 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 19 And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." 21 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. 22 And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple.

And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. 23 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. 24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, 25 "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

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,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn

TLH 73 Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates (tune 2)

Sermon

Jeremiah 23:1-8

**God's Love at Christmas
God's Love Covers Me With Christ**

Stanza:

So in the last and dreadful Day, When earth and heaven shall melt away, Thy flock, redeemed from sinful stain, Shall swell the sound of praise again.

Hymn

WS 715 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

☩ Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed by 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

Benediction

☩ Amen.

Hymn

TLH 62 O Come O Come Emmanuel

Acknowledgments

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WELCOME 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:

- **Bible Class Schedule:** 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: ***Why are there no women pastors (or even voters) in the CLC?***
- **Christmas VBS:** Will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9th. Be sure to invite friends who might be interested in attending! Registration is up on our website.
- **Christmas Eve:** Will be Sunday Evening at 5 pm. There will be no Christmas Day service on Monday.
- **Favorite Christmas Hymns:** 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

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday Dec. 10th Redemption Communion Service at 9

Wed. Dec. 13th Advent Candlelight Service at 7 PM

Sunday Dec. 20th Redemption Sunday Service at 9