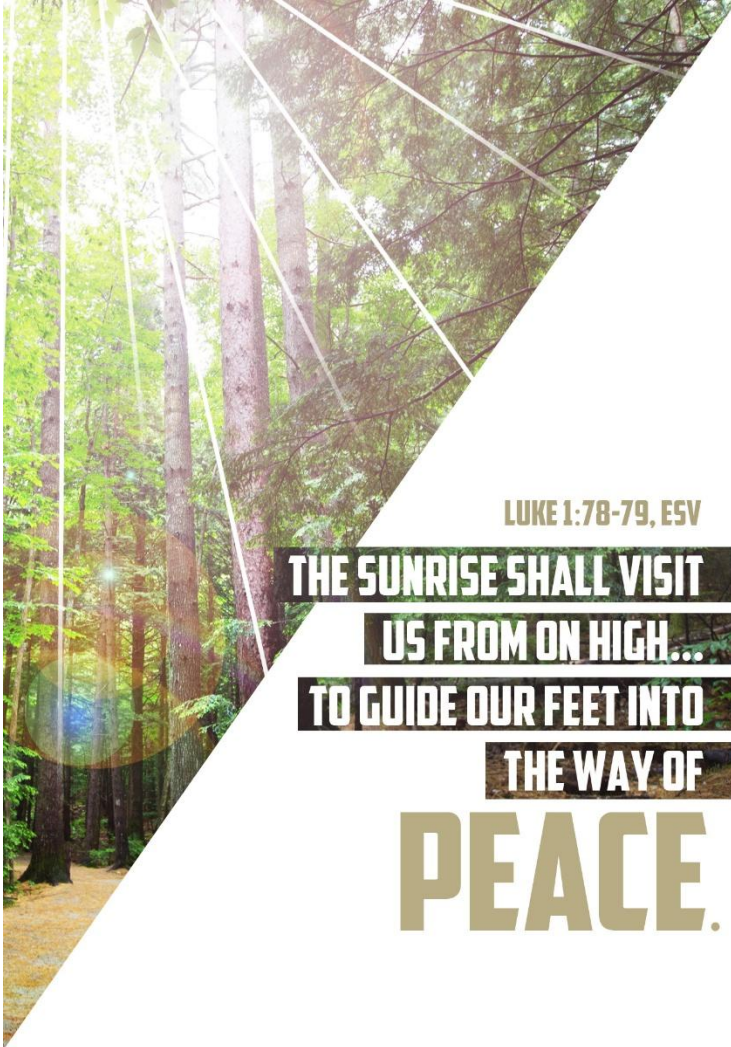


November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Vol. 3 Issue 22

# REDEMPTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Sunday in Advent



LUKE 1:78-79, ESV

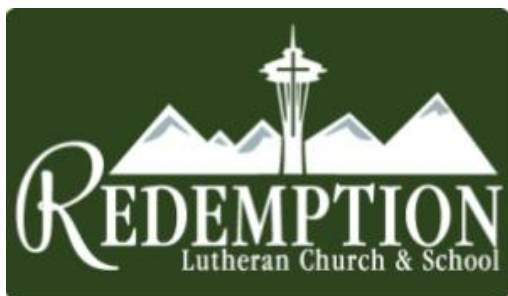
**THE SUNRISE SHALL VISIT**

**US FROM ON HIGH...**

**TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO**

**THE WAY OF**

**PEACE.**



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**Pre-Service Meditation:**

**Luke 1:68** <sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, as we begin our meditation on Your coming into this world, and in light of Your second coming to judge the world, we ask for Your blessing and grace. How awesome are Your gifts, O Savior, for through them You have brought us life and salvation. You gifted a son to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age, and through that child, gave a gift to the whole world. John the Baptist prepared the way for You so that hearts would turn in repentance. Let that gift resonate among us that we may repent of our sin and be prepared for Your coming. Through Your saving name, even as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Opening:

## WS 701 Prepare the Royal Highway

### 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.

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

### The Responsory

**[P]:** Behold, your King is coming to you.

**[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.

**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.

Even the Messenger of the Covenant, 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.

**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.**

**P**: Behold, your King is coming to you.

**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.

**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.**

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray... Make Your power evident and come to us, O Lord. Protect us, rescue us from the peril of our sin, and enable us to know Your salvation; through Him who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**C** Amen.

## **Old Testament Lesson**

## **Isaiah 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

## **Epistle Lesson:**

## **2 Corinthians 4:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to

everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

## **Confession of Faith:**

## **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 T everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn:**

**TLH 63 On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry**

## **Sermon**

## **Luke 1:67-79**

<sup>67</sup> And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, <sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup>

the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

## **Zechariah's Song: Amazing Gift**

**Offertory:** **TLH 70 Hosanna to the Living Lord**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide! Let me Thy inner presence feel, Thy grace and love in me reveal; Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won. Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.**

**Hymn:** **TLH 62 Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel**

### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

#### **Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**☐ 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**

#### **Benediction**

**☐ Amen.**

**Hymn:** **TLH 61 Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People**

## Silent Prayer

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## Announcements

**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.

## Upcoming Events:

- **Special Services Upcoming:** Advent Candlelight Service Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> (time TBD).
- **Vacation Bible School:** Our Christmas VBS is scheduled for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12:30pm. We are in need of volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Lori-Jo or myself. Registration is now available on the website.
- **Advent:** Next Sunday we continue our study on the songs of Advent. Mary's Song: Amazing Love.

## Call News:

- Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN ***is considering the call*** to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI.
- Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Lutheran in Cheyenne, WY ***is considering the call*** to Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI; Pastor Libby ***is also considering the call*** to Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ



- Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck (current vacancy pastor at Our Redeemer's Lutheran in Red Wing, MN) ***is considering the call*** to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights, MN
- Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran Church in Batavia, IL ***is considering the call*** to be part-time pastor at Our Redeemer's in Red Wing, MN
- Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt ***is considering the vacancy call*** to Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ

## **Around the CLC:**

- **National Women's Retreat Coming in January!**
  - **What:** Press Pause for the National Women's (Virtual) Retreat
  - **When:** Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026 // 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (PT)
  - **How:** Join us virtually via Zoom
  - **Register now:** <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>
  - **Cost:** It's Free!
- **The Branches Subscription Renewal:** Renewal information for The Branches magazine are available on the table in the narthex. The deadline for renewals (or new subscriptions) is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip:** The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply.

For more information and to apply,  
visit [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).

## **World Missions Prayer List:**

- The QR code below will take you to Missionary Ohlmann's blog, which includes a link to the prayer list for our mission churches across the world. Printed copies are available in the narthex.



## **Upcoming Schedule:**

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> Redemption Sunday Service at 9

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> Advent Candlelight Service at 7pm

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> Redemption Sunday Service at 9

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service at 4pm