

REDEMPTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST Sunday After Christmas



SATISFY US IN THE MORNING

WITH YOUR STEADFAST LOVE,

THAT WE MAY REJOICE AND

BE GLAD ALL OUR DAYS.

PSALM 90:14, ESV



Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

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Pre-Service Meditation:

Job 8:12 ¹² You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank You for all the blessings You have given us this past year. Your goodness and mercy have truly overflowed. This year, many have endured pain and uncertainty. But you remained faithful to us. Many times, we doubt You and question Your justness. Lord, give us the faithfulness of Job. Who, when in weakness questioned Your goodness, retained a steadfast trust in Your steadfast love. So also, are we able to trust in Your steadfast love, for You have promised suffering produces endurance. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening: **TLH 116 To the Name of Our Salvation vs 1-5**

P: This week we mark the end of another year of our lives. Every thought, every word, and every action is now behind us. Not one moment of the past can be changed. Actions cannot be undone. Words cannot be unspoken. Sinful thoughts cannot be withdrawn. As we survey the past twelve months of 2025, we bow our heads in humble repentance and confess:

C: "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

P: The sinfulness of mankind is universal. Each of us, without exception, is unclean before God because of our sin. Our depravity is total, we are completely sinful by nature. We are lost unless we have forgiveness. Therefore we rejoice in the Word of our God:

C: **Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.**

♪ 1. *Now greet the swiftly changing year With joy and penitence sincere. Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace.*

♪ 3. *This Jesus came to end sin's war; This Name of names for us He bore. Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace.*

P: We have passed through another springtime, summer, and fall, and are now in the midst of winter. Though the seasons pass without our notice, they teach us that our lives grow shorter and shorter each day:

C: **So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.**

P: In 2025, two of our fellow Christians, Linda Mantei and Mary Ann Moore were summoned from this vale of tears to the eternal joys of heaven. We praise God for preserving them in the faith and for the blessings He provided through them. We long for the day when we will join all believers around the throne of God forever.

C: **Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, they do rest from their labors and their works do follow them.**

P: 2025 brought sickness for some of our members. There were hospitalizations, surgeries, and difficult tests of faith. Our earthly bodies, which the Lord created to live forever, bear the consequences of sin. Yet, the Lord graciously hears and answers our prayers.

C: "I am the LORD who heals you." "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

♪ 4. *His love abundant far exceeds The volume of a whole year's needs. Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace.*

♪ 5. *With Him as Lord to lead our way In want and in prosperity, What need we fear in earth or space In this new year of grace.*

P: 2025 was a year where God was present among us in His Word and Sacrament. The Lord came to us through His means of grace to bless us with the assurance that we are His forgiven children in Christ.

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

P: 2025 was a year of many changes. On a global and personal level, changes have come for good or bad. As we step into 2026, more change is likely. Nevertheless, our greatest need and our greatest hope will never change:

C: "Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today, and forever."

♪ 6. *"All glory be to God on high, And peace on earth!" The angels cry. Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace!*

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray... Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Gospel Lesson:**Luke 4:16-21**

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

**☩ 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 112 To God the Anthem Raising vs 1-2,4,6

Sermon Job 10:8-15

⁸ Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether. ⁹ Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? ¹⁰ Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? ¹¹ You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. ¹² You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. ¹³ Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose. ¹⁴ If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity. ¹⁵ If I am guilty, woe to me! If I am in the right, I cannot lift up my head, for I am filled with disgrace and look on my affliction.

God Produces Endurance For 2026

Offertory: Create In Me

**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.**

Hymn:

TLH 114 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Words of Institution

Distribution

Responsive Prayer:

[P]: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51:12)

[C]: Restore and sustain us O Lord

[P]: Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved. (Psalm 80:19)

[C]: Restore and rekindle us O Lord

[P]: He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. (Psalm 23:2-3)

[C]: Restore, refresh and guide us O Lord

[P]: Restore us, O God; make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved. (Psalm 80:3)

[C]: Restore and awaken us O Lord

[P]: And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

[C]: To Him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn:

TLH 123 Our God our Help in Ages Past vs 1-4,8

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:

- **Lay Service:** I will be visiting family over the Jan. 5th weekend. We will have a lay service that day.
- **Thank You:** Thank you all for your generosity this Christmas season.

Call News:

- Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD ***has returned the call*** to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI.
- Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Lutheran in Cheyenne, WY ***has returned the call*** to Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI
- Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN ***is considering the call to*** Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday, January 5th Redemption Sunday Service at 9

Sunday, January 12th Redemption Communion Service at 9

Sunday, January 19th Redemption Sunday Service at 9

