

**REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**4955 W. 158<sup>TH</sup> Street Oak Forest, IL 60452**

**708-687-2432**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*Dec. 12, 2021*

*9:30 A.M.*

The cost of our Bulletin cover is donated by

**McKENZIE FUNERAL HOME**

**15618 Cicero Avenue Oak Forest, Illinois (708) 687-2990**

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**Pastor Soren Flessen**

*Organist/ Piano~ Amy Ogarek*

*Office Administrator~ Deb Frawley*

*Music Coordinator~ Jan Strojny*

*Videographer~ Art James*

*Ministers- The People of Redeemer's*

LECTOR            9:30am            Dorothy Kropack



*Altar Flowers*

*Are given by Jay & Dorothy Kropack in  
thanksgiving for Dorothy's  
1 year kidney anniversary!*

**Save the date:**

*Poinsettia orders are now being taken! \$14 each due by TODAY!! Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please put your money in a separate envelope and place in the offering plate. These will adorn our chancel on Christmas Eve and will be available to take home after worship.*

Dec. 15~ Council Meeting 7pm

Friday, Dec. 24. 7pm~Christmas Eve Candlelight worship

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

Sunday, Dec. 26~ 9:30am worship as usual.

Dec. 18~ Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Oak Forest is proud to be able to host the traditional Hispanic celebration of Las Posadas on **Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 7pm**. Join the band of pilgrims, as they knock on door after door, looking to find a place. Finally, we will come to a place where someone will give them "Posada" (housing at a hostel or an inn), which is a cause for celebration! Kids are encouraged to participate in the fun and the singing. **Everyone is welcome! THIS EVENT IS FREE (donations welcomed) AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Masking indoors is required.**

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection –  
15050 Central Ave., Oak Forest (708) 687-2170

**Lord's Prayer (spoken):**

**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 Holy Communion*

P: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.  
*(Please remain standing)*

*Distribution of Holy Communion*

**Communion Song: Jesus, Lamb of God**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Bread of Life, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Prince of Peace, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant us your peace.**

*Blessing after Communion*

P: May the body and blood of our living, risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion*

P: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

*Blessing*

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

**Sending Song: "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" Red book #247**

*Announcements & Sharing*

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**



“Discovering Christ’s community through building relationships”  
Dec. 12, 2021

++++  
Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

*Prelude:* “One Small Child”

Welcome  
*(Please stand as able)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

**C: God for whom we wait, in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace:*

*“During this time of Covid, please remain in your pew, but share a sign of peace with the neighbors around you”*

**Gathering Song:**

**“Come, Let us Worship and Bow Down”**

**Come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our maker.  
Come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand,  
and the sheep of his hand.**

*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.**

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

Connie Martin

*Third Sunday*

The Gift of Love

Love is more than a flicker within the human heart.

**Lord, reveal your love, and make us new.**

In a hurried world with little time for others, Advent calls us to remember that...

**Love is patient.**

In a world where often we become consumed by our own interest, Advent calls us to remember that...

**Love is kind.**

In a world where often we are quick to anger and slow to forgive, Advent calls us to remember that...

**Love is not easily angered, and through love we come to forgive.**

This Advent let us behold the love of God embodied in our Savior’s birth.

**God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians (*especially*). With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

**Offertory Prayer**

**C: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

*(Please stand as able)*

*Words of Institution*

P: The Gospel of the Lord!  
(Please be seated)

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

(Please stand as able)

Sermon Hymn:

“Lost in the Night”

Red book #243

**Nicene Creed:**

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

*Prayers of Intercession*

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Congregation:

Light of life, Mak-er of day, gath-er our  
sha-dows and cast them a-way. Bea-con of  
truth, gleam-ing and bright, shine in our  
hearts, shat-ter our night.

**The Prayer of the Day**

**C: Lord God, stir up the wills of your faithful people, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

*The First Reading is from the 3<sup>d</sup> Chapter of Zephaniah*

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

*The prophet Zephaniah’s message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God’s salvation is at hand.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the LORD.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Song: "Heaven Everywhere"

Deb Frawley

*The Second Reading is from the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Philippians*

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be

made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as able)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Red book #169**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter*

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

Holy Gospel Luke 3:7-18

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.