

**REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

**708-687-2432**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*Dec. 5, 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*



*Altar Flowers  
Are given by the Nowlans  
for blessings received!*

## We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

*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:** "People Look East" **Red book #242**

*Announcements & Sharing*

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Save the date:**

Dec. 11~ Redeemer's Christmas party at the Frawley's 5pm  
17037 S. 92<sup>nd</sup> Av. Orland Hills Deb's cell 708-574-0085  
*Bring an appetizer, or dessert to share. Please sign up in the Narthex.*

*Poinsettia orders are now being taken! \$14 each due by Dec. 12. 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

**Your 2022 giving envelopes are now available on the table in the Narthex.**



“Discovering Christ’s community through building relationships”

Dec. 5, 2021

++++  
Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

*Prelude:* "Light of the World"

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:** “We are Waiting for Jesus” **see page 9**

*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*

Marty Conrad

*Second Sunday*

## The Gift of Peace

On this Advent journey, we are mindful of the brokenness of the world that surrounds us.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

As we look around us, we see the hostility that exists between neighbor and nation.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

As we look beside us, we see fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

As we look within ourselves, we confess the reconciling words we have yet to speak and restoring deed we have yet to do.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

*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.

*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**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.**

*Prayers of Intercession*

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

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. 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.**

***The Prayer of the Day***

**C:** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 Malachi*

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Song:**

**"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

**Jan Strojny**

*The Second Reading is from the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter of Philippians*

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work

among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.  
(Please stand as able)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Red book #169**

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

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

Holy Gospel Luke 3:1-6

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

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

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*Sermon*

(Please stand as able)

**Sermon Hymn: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" Red book #239**

***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)