

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Advent 3

December 13, 2020

Pastor Tom Engelbrecht



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

"Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

CW 12 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior
He comes the cap - tives to re -
He comes the bro - ken heart to
Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of

comes, The Sav - ior prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart
- lease, In Sa - tan's pris - on held. The gates of brass
bind, The bleed - ing soul to cure, And with the trea -
Peace, Your wel - come shall pro - claim, And heav' n's e - ter -

pre - pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
be - fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.
- sures of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
- nal arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Stand

INVOCATION

P (Pastor): We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C (Congregation): **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS

P: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Therefore, we confess our sins to God and ask him to forgive us.

C: Father, I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart or loved others as I should. I am not worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to take away my guilt forever. For Jesus' sake be merciful to me, a sinner.

P: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:5-9) Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER

P: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

MUSICAL SELECTION

"A Cradle Carol"

Text: Rebekah Pringle Tune: DAN FORREST ©2008, 2015 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of

beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

⁸ “For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.” ¹⁰ I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: Even in the darkness of life’s chaos and confusion, the light of God’s promise shines brightly forth. The PROPHECY CANDLE assures us that, in the coming of Jesus Christ, our God does keep his word.

C: **When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads because your redemption is drawing near.** (Luke 21:28)

P: The BETHLEHEM CANDLE bids us hear the Word of God with penitent and faithful hearts, and so to make ready for the coming of the Lord.

C: **It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one crying in the desert: Prepare the way for the Lord.”** (Mark 1:2, 3)

P: The SHEPHERD’S CANDLE shines with joy, a message to be heard and shared, that others may rejoice as well.

C: **One more powerful than I will come. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** (Luke 3:16)

P: May the glow of these candles symbolize the light of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ, shining in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. May our paths be lighted with his peace, not only now, but all the days of our lives.

GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" 24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." 28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

SERMON HYMN

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

CW 19 Text, Tune: Public Domain Setting: ©1970 by Barenreiter-Verlag

O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come you a -
 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you down to
 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in deep - est
 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your souls dis -
 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror to his

- right? Your peo - ple long to greet you, My Hope, my heart's De -
 me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er -
 gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed And trem - ble at your
 - tress; Your guilt the Lord will par - don And cov - er by his
 foes, A light of con - so - la - tions, And bless - ed hope to

- light. O Je - sus, let your Word be A lamp to light my
 - ty. Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing That led you to em -
 doom. De - spair not; he is near you, He's stand - ing at the
 grace. He comes, for you pro - cur - ing The peace of sin for -
 those Who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Son, now

way, To show me how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.
 - brace In love all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!
 door Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.
 - giv'n, His chil - dren then se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.
 come, Send forth your beams most cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

SERMON TEXT

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always,
¹⁷ pray continually,
¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.
²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt
²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good,
²² reject every kind of evil.
²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.
May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

SERMON THEME **When Always Means Always**

Stand

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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.

Be seated

PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

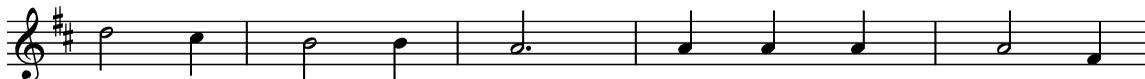
CLOSING HYMN

"Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"

CW 376 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain



Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty
Bold shall I stand in that great day Who can a
Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, Which at the
Lord, I be - lieve were sin - ners more Than sands up -
When from the dust of death I rise To claim my
Je - sus, be wor - shiped end - less - ly! Your bound - less



are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in
word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -
ve - ry throne of God For - ev - er will for
- on the o - cean shore, You have for all a
man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be
mer - cy has for me, For me and all your



these a - rrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
- solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
sin - ners plead, For me--e'en for my soul--was shed.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.
all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.
hands have made. An ev - er - last - ing ran - som paid.

December Events at COR

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	8 & 10:30a Worship / Communion 9:00a Voters Meeting 9:15a Sunday School	7 8:30a Tree Trimming	8	9 7p Advent Worship	10	11	12 5-7p Living Nativity
13	8 & 10:30a Worship 9:15a Sunday School & Bible Study 5-7p Living Nativity	14	14	16 7p Advent Worship	17	18 7p RMLHS Christmas Concert	19
20	8 & 10:30a Worship / Communion 9:15a Sunday School & Bible Study	21	22	23	24 Noon – Christmas Worship 6p Candlelight Worship	25 9a - Christmas Day Worship	26
27	9:00a Christmas 1 Worship	28	29	30	31 7p – New Year’s Eve Worship		

LIVING NATIVITY: Our Living Nativity continues this evening from 5-7p. We encourage you to invite someone to hear the wonderful Christmas message. Our thanks to all who have participated in helping share that message in our community. It is much appreciated.

POINSETTIAS: If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be used at COR during the Christmas Season and then taken home by you, please contact Teresa Miller 303-969-8143 or teresam11757@gmail.com.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Your 2021 offering envelopes are in your COR mailbox. Please make certain to pick them up. We praise God for your offerings and remind you that if you give electronically, envelope numbers still need to be assigned for tracking reasons.

*A warm welcome to our visitors.
May the Lord bless your worship with us today.*

Christ Our Redeemer was organized in 1965 so that with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it might strengthen the faith of its members and reach out into the community and the world.

To carry out this purpose we believe and teach:

- **That the Bible is the Word of God and the only foundation for Christian faith and life;**
- **That God revealed in the Bible as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, is the true and living God;**
- **That all people have sinned against his holy will, fall short of his glory, and therefore deserve to be condemned eternally;**
- **That Jesus Christ came into the world to deliver all people from the guilt and power of sin and that he lived and died as the perfect and only substitute;**
- **That through faith created by the Holy Spirit, the benefits of Christ's works are received personally;**
- **That on the last day Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead and will take all those who trust in him to eternal life.**

We join in that confession with over 1200 congregations of the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod and with them carry on a world-wide ministry. www.wels.net

**Worship services Sundays at 8 & 10:30a
Thursdays at 7p (except during Advent & Lent)
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