

# **Redeemer Lutheran Church San Antonio, Texas**

**December 24, 2023  
Christmas Eve**

NOTES: Offerings will not be collected by passing plates. Please place your attendance cards and offering in the plates located by the narthex.

Masks are not required, but you can wear one at your own discretion. There is no specified seating for bible class or worship.

## **Prelude**

### **A Christmas Eve Prayer and a Christmas Eve Word from Nahum 1:7**

"The Lord is good, a Strength and Stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows (recognizes, has knowledge of, and understands) those who take refuge and trust in Him."

### **Christmas Hymn:**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – LSB # 357

### **Psalm 97:1-6, 8-12**

"The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side. His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory. Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of your

judgments, Lord. For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.”

### **Christmas Hymn:**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” – LSB # 379

## **The Purpose of Christmas**

### **Galatians 4:4-7**

“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.”

### **Christmas Hymn:**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” – LSB # 380

### **Psalms 68:19-29, 32-35**

“What a glorious God! He gives us salvation over and over, then daily he carries our burdens! Our God is a mighty God who saves us over and over! For the Lord, Yahweh, rescues us from the ways of death many times. But he will crush every enemy, shattering their strength. He will make heads roll for they refuse to repent of their stubborn, sinful ways. I

hear the Lord God saying to all the enemies of his people, “You’d better come out of your hiding places, all of you who are doing your best to stay far away from me. Don’t you know there’s no place to hide? For my people will be the conquerors; they will soon have you under their feet. They will crush you until there is nothing left!” O God, my King, your triumphal processions keep moving onward in holiness; you’re moving onward toward the Holy Place! Leaders in front, then musicians, with young maidens in between, striking their tambourines. And they sing, “Let all God’s princely people rejoice! Let all the congregations bring their blessing to God, saying, ‘The Lord of the fountain! The Lord of the fountain of life! The Lord of the fountain of Israel!’” Astonishingly, it’s the favored youth leading the way: princes of praise in their royal robes and exalted princes are among them, along with princes who have wrestled with God. Display your strength, God, and we’ll be strong! For your miracles have made us who we are. Lord, do it again and parade from your temple your mighty power. By your command even kings will bring gifts to you. Let all the nations of the earth sing songs of praise to Almighty God! Go ahead, all you nations — sing your praise to the Lord! Make music for the one who strides the ancient skies. Listen to his thunderous voice of might split open the heavens. Give it up for God, for he alone has all the strength and power! Proclaim his majesty! For his glory shines down on Israel. His mighty strength soars in the clouds of glory. God, we are consumed with awe, trembling before you as your glory streams from your Holy Place. The God of power shares his mighty strength with Israel and with all his people. God, we give our highest praise to you!”

**Christmas Hymn:**

“Joy to the World!” – LSB # 387

**Psalm 98:1-9**

“Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn — shout for joy before the Lord, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.”

**Christmas Hymn:**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” – LSB # 361

**Micah 5:2-4**

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live

securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.”

### **Psalm 102:12-22, 27-28**

“But you, Lord, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations. You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come. For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity. The nations will fear the name of the Lord, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory. For the Lord will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory. He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea. Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord: “The Lord looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death.” So the name of the Lord will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the Lord. But you remain the same, and your years will never end. The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you.”

### **Prayer of the Day**

**All:** Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

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.

## **The Candle Lighting for Christmas Eve**

(Candles remain lit until the close of the service)

**John, Chapter 1** “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

## **Christmas Hymn:**

“Silent Night” – LSB # 363

## **The Christmas Gospel; A Sending Story**

### **Mary's Boy Child**

Long time ago in Bethlehem  
So the Holy Bible say  
Mary's Boy Child, Jesus Christ  
Was born on Christmas Day!

While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
They saw a bright new shining star

And heard a choir from heaven sing  
The music came from afar

Hark! Now hear the angels sing:  
"New King's born today  
And man will live for evermore  
Because of Christmas Day!"

Now Joseph and his wife Mary  
Came to Bethlehem that night.  
They found no place to bear her Child,  
Not a single room was in sight.

Hark! Now hear the angels sing:  
"New King's born today  
And man will live for evermore  
Because of Christmas Day!"

By and by they found a little nook  
In a stable all forlorn.  
And in a manger cold and dark  
Mary's little Boy/Child was born.

Trumpets sound and angels sing,  
Listen to what they say!  
That man will live forevermore  
Because of Christmas Day!

## **Benediction**

### **Solo**

"O Holy Night" - Ron Ottinger

After the lights come on, please extinguish your candles and place them on the table in the narthex as you exit.

Please take the bulletin home or discard in the trash before you leave.