

EVERGREENS

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn’t mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

Tonight, we focus on evergreens. Perhaps the most innocuous decorations in the eyes of the world, their prickles remind us of the crown of thorns, and the berries of the holly evoke the blood-stained brow of our crucified Lord. Above all, the steadfastness of their green in the midst of death symbolizes life amid death—and the life eternal Jesus won for us on the cross.

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS HYMN SING (6:50 – 7:00 PM)

Stand

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong.: Amen.

(Matthew 28:19b)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Cong.: who made heaven and earth.

(Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Cong.: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

(Psalm 130:3-4)

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(Luke 18:13b)

Cong.: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong.: Amen.

(John 20:19-23)

✠ SERVICE OF VESPERS ✠

OPENING VERSES

(Psalm 15:15, 70:1)

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

Cong.: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

Cong.: make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Cong.: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

PSALMODY

(Psalm 92; *antiphon v. 12*)

Pastor: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

**Cong.: to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,
and Your faithfulness by night,**

Pastor: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

**Cong.: For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;
at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.**

Pastor: How great are Your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

**Cong.: The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:
that though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever;**

Pastor: but You, O LORD, are on high forever.

**Cong.: For behold, Your enemies, O LORD,
for behold, Your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.**

Pastor: But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
You have poured over me fresh oil.

**Cong.: My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.**

Pastor: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

**Cong.: They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.**

Pastor: They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,

**Cong.: to declare that the LORD is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.**

Continues on next page

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Sit **“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” [LSB hymn 350]**

1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our
sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,
O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er
let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

ANTHEM (7:00 PM)

“The Angel Gabriel”

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

A reading from Hosea, the fourteenth chapter

Hosea 14:4-8

I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit.

Elder: O Lord, have mercy on us.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

A reading from Revelation, the twenty-second chapter

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Elder: O Lord, have mercy on us.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

Stand

A reading from John, the eleventh chapter

John 11:17-27

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

Pastor: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,

when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

Cong.: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Pastor: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

Cong.: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

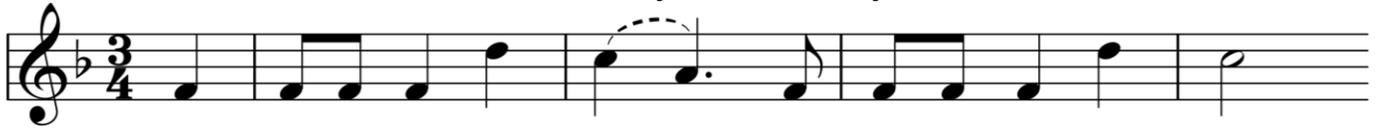
Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Cong.: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Sit

HYMN

“The Holly and the Ivy”



1 The hol-ly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown,
 2 The hol-ly bears a blos-som as white as an - y flow'r,
 3 The hol-ly bears a ber - ry as red as an - y blood,
 4 The hol-ly bears a prick - le as sharp as an - y thorn,
 5 The hol-ly bears a bark as bitter as an - y gall,
 6 The hol-ly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown,



Of all the trees that are in the wood, the hol - ly bears the crown.
 And Mar-y bore sweet Je-sus Christ to be our sweet Sav - ior.
 And Mar-y bore sweet Je-sus Christ to do poor sin - ners good.
 And Mar-y bore sweet Je-sus Christ on Christ-mas Day in the morn.
 And Mar-y bore sweet Je-sus Christ for to re - deem us all.
 Of all the trees that are in the wood, the hol - ly bears the crown.

Refrain



Oh, the ris-ing of the sun and the run-ning of the deer.



The play-ing of the mer-ry or - gan, sweet sing-ing in the choir.

SERMON

“Evergreens”

(Pastor Jeong)

Stand

CANTICLE

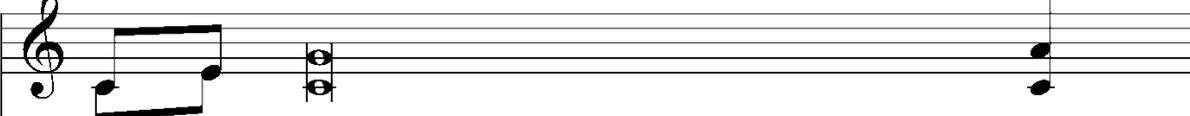
Pastor: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

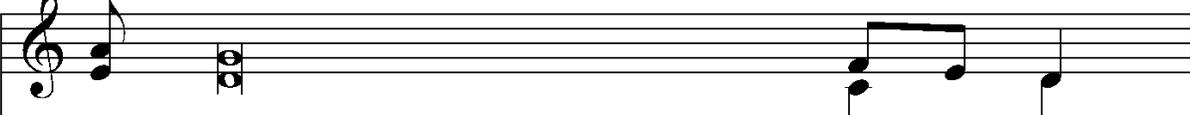
Cong.: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

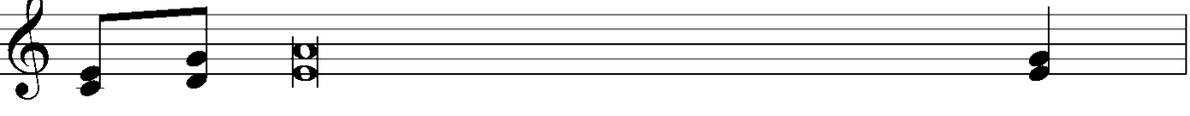
MAGNIFICAT [LSB hymn 248]

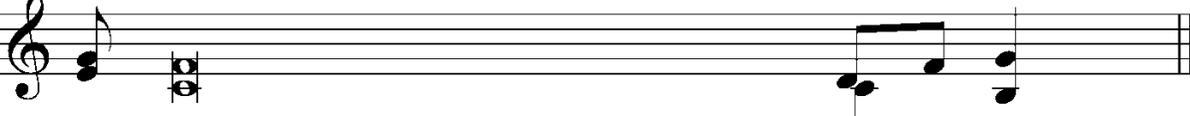


My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
 joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag - ni - fies the
 Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

- 
- 1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
 - 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
 - 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
 - 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 - 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son

- 
- 1 the lowliness of His hand - maiden.
 - 2 and holy is His name;
 - 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 - 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
 - 5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;

- 
- 1 For be - hold, from this day
 - 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
 - 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 - 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
 - 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,

- 
- 1 all generations will call me blessèd.
 - 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
 - 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
 - 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
 - 5 is now, and will be forever. A - - - - - men. *Refrain*

OFFERINGS

You may place your offering in the plate as you exit the service.

KYRIE

(Mark 10:47)

All: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6: 9-13)

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

COLLECTS

Pastor: O Lord, hear my prayer.

Cong.: And let my cry come to You.

Pastor: For eyes to behold the Father's hand in all creation, let us pray to the Lord:

Cong.: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For awareness of beauty and the living traditions of the church that bring Christ to our eyes through arts and crafts, let us pray to the Lord:

Cong.: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may see the signs of Christ's return even as we celebrate His birth, and encourage one another all the more as we see the Day drawing near, let us pray to the Lord:

Cong.: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may be living testimonies of new life in Christ through our loving service to our neighbor—both in word and in deed, let us pray to the Lord:

Cong.: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may be thankful for the bountiful harvest we enjoy amid the many festivities of this season, and be generous to the poor, let us pray to the Lord:

Cong.: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may love one another as God so loved us, forgive one another, and work together in the unity we have in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

Cong.: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may not be lured into temptation or despair or be distracted by the false Christmases around us, but always hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

Cong.: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.

Cong.: Amen.

Pastor: Lord of all beauty, You made the heavens and the earth; the world and all its fullness are Yours. Thank You for giving us life and filling creation with signs that declare Your glory. As we behold beautiful evergreens this season, fix our eyes on their thorny leaves and red berries that we may give thanks for the crown Your Son wore and the cross He bore for us. Abide in us always, as we abide in Your Word and take heart in the promise of eternal life with Jesus.

Cong.: Amen.

Pastor: Lord of life, You sent Your Son to bring back to life all the children of Adam. Grant that we may view the evergreens of this season through the eyes of faith so that in a world still filled with death, we may be of good courage, knowing that, just as the evergreen prevails over death in winter, we prevail over the winter of our sin and will rise to life eternal on the Last Day; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong.: Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong.: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

(Psalm 103:1)

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Cong.: Amen.

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” [LSB hymn 357:1, 4]



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

POSTLUDE

2025 ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wednesday, December 3	Midweek Advent Service Pastor Jeong Advent Soup Supper	4:00 & 7:00 PM 5:15 PM
Thursday, December 4	Women's Bible Study	7:00 PM
Friday, December 5	Ladies Morning Bible Study (LaMBS)	11:30 AM
Sunday, December 7	Second Sunday in Advent (Divine Service) Christian Education for all ages	8 & 11:00 AM 9:30 AM
Tuesday, December 9	Confirmation Class (7 th & 8 th grade) Preschool Christmas Program & Dessert	4:30 PM 6:00 PM
Wednesday, December 10	Midweek Advent Service Pastor Jasa Advent Soup Supper	4:00 & 7:00 PM 5:15 PM
Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday in Advent (Divine Service) Christian Education for all ages Christmas Concert " <i>Let Heaven and Nature Sing</i> "	8 & 11:00 AM 9:30 AM 4:00 PM
Tuesday, December 16	Confirmation Class (7 th & 8 th grade)	4:30 PM
Wednesday, December 17	Midweek Advent Service Pastor Pierson Advent Soup Supper	4:00 & 7:00 PM 5:15 PM
Friday, December 19	Ladies Morning Bible Study (LaMBS)	11:30 AM
Saturday, December 20	Faith, Hope, and Board Games	5:30 PM
Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday in Advent (Divine Service) One Service Christian Education for all ages Preschool Bale Sale Fundraiser	10:00 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM
Wednesday, December 24	Service of Lessons and Carols Candlelight Christmas Eve (Divine Service)	7:00 PM 11:00 PM
Thursday, December 25	The Nativity of Our Lord (Divine Service)	10:00 AM
Sunday, December 28	First Sunday after Christmas Christian Education for all ages	8 & 11:00 AM 9:30 AM
Tuesday, December 30	Women's Bible Study	7:00 PM
Friday, January 2	Ladies Morning Bible Study (LaMBS)	11:30 AM
Sunday, January 4	The Epiphany of Our Lord (Divine Service) Christian Education for all ages	8 & 11:00 AM 9:30 AM

SERVING OUR LORD AND HIS PEOPLE THIS EVENING

4:00 PM

7:00 PM

Elder/Acolyte: Steve Snyder
Organist:
Pianist: Beth Hansen
Music:

Adam Volkert
Matt Laub
Beth Hansen
Ladies of the Sanctuary Choir

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

SCRIPTURE ALONE GRACE ALONE FAITH ALONE CHRIST ALONE



16351 Springdale Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92649-2773

CHURCH: 714-846-6330 Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM / 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Church email churchoffice@redeemer-lutheran.net Fax: 714-840-2679

Ernest Jeong, Senior Pastor email prjeong@redeemer-lutheran.net

Tom Miller, Specific Ministry Pastor email tmiller@redeemer-lutheran.net

Church Website: redeemer-lutheran.net

SCHOOL: 714-840-7117 Office Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Mindy Weiss, Preschool Director email preschool.director@redeemer-lutheran.net

Preschool Website: school.redeemer-lutheran.net

Our mission is to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament, worship Him and grow in His grace, and to share those holy gifts, by making disciples for Christ, who reach out joyfully to the world around them.

A CONGREGATION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE 1