

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

904 Bluff Street Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

A traditional, liturgical, Biblical congregation in the heart of Cedar Falls ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Christ.

Rev. Michael R. Knox, Pastor Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor Matthew Baker, Vicar
(319) 231-9761 (319) 389-5526 (605) 342-0259

Church Office: 266-2509 Email: orlc@cfu.net Website: theforgivenessplace.org

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

TO OUR VISITORS We rejoice that you have joined us this morning to hear the Word of God, receive His gifts of life and salvation, and to respond to His faithfulness with “Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” *Ephesians 5:19*

- ✘ Please take the time to fill out the Communion Registration/Visitors’ Cards which are in the small card holders on the pew.
- ✘ Please read the announcement below regarding Communion.
- ✘ Guests who will not be communing may place the Visitor’s card in the Offering plate.
- ✘ Guests who intend to commune are asked to announce this intention to the Elder and give the card to the Usher as they come forward to receive communion.

OUR REDEEMER PRACTICES CLOSED COMMUNION



The Sacrament of the Altar is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink, instituted by Christ Himself. As we receive this Sacrament, the oneness of fellowship at the Altar (I Corinthians 10:17) presupposes a oneness in doctrine with the Apostles (Acts 2:42). For this reason the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of Closed Communion. If you desire to receive the Lord’s Supper and are not a communicant member of Our Redeemer or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning. Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Knox,

Pastor Saunders, or Vicar Baker about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation.

THOSE SERVING GOD’S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Alan Czarnetzki **Ushers:** Jim Niebergall, Chris Fink

Service Assistants: Steven Dekutoski **Organist:** Roxann List

Offering Counters: Paula Czarnetzki, Char Strub **Shut-Ins:** Dean Fink

TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS The Church Year moves quickly from the birth narrative of Jesus to His life lived as the perfect substitute for sinful humanity. As Jesus lived His life in complete obedience to the Law, He did so to fulfill the Law for you. This is called His *Active Obedience*.

Jesus also suffered and died under the curse of the Law, because of your sins. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sins which He accepted as your substitute. This is called His *Passive Obedience*.

Because Jesus fulfilled the Law perfectly for you and for all people, those who trust in Him can sing with Simeon this day, ***“Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.”***

These are the words of what the Church now knows as the “Nunc Dimittis,” which are sung in the Communion Liturgy. As Simeon beheld the Christ in the flesh there in the temple, so you too, by faith, “see” the Christ in the flesh, as He comes to you with His body and blood in the bread and wine of the Sacrament of the Altar. Through faith in Christ, you too have peace with God.

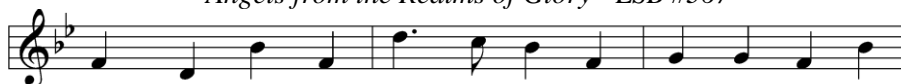


Today we also hear and learn of Anna, called a prophetess, who likewise beholds Jesus in the temple. Now with sins forgiven and filled with the hope and certainty of salvation in Christ, we like Anna, ***“Give thanks to God and . . . speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.”***

I. THE PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” LSB #367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand/Remain Standing

Invocation

P/V: In the name of the Father and of the (✠) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sin

P/V: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P/V: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P/V: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

P/V: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

P/V: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to be the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit



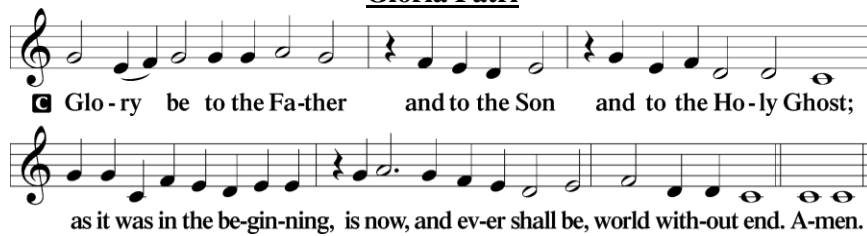
Cantor: The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,*
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

Cong: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salva- | tion for Him.
The Lord has made known His sal- | vation;*
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Cantor: The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,*
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

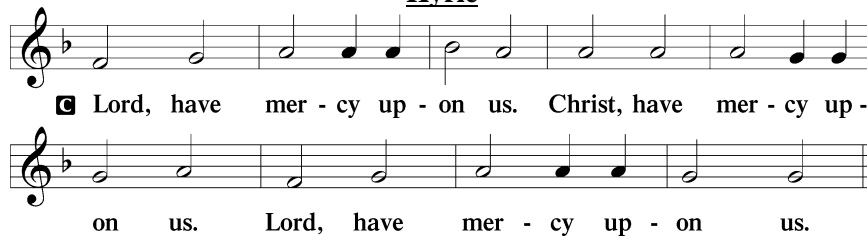
(Ps. 98:1-4; antiphon: Is. 52:10)

Gloria Patri



Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

II Timothy 4:22

C And with thy spir - it.

The Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Be seated

The Old Testament

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn
 "O Sing of Christ" LSB #362



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
 3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
 4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
 Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
 Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
 As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
 For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
 To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
 Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
 He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
 Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
 That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001799
 Tune: Public domain

The Epistle
 Galatians 4:4-7

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

The Alleluia/Verse



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Cantor: My eyes have seen Your sal - | vation; *

a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people | Israel.

(Luke 2:31, 32)



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel
 Luke 2:22-40

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Luke, the 2nd chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life (✕) of the world to come. Amen

The Hymn of The Day

"In Peace and Joy I Now Depart" #938



1 In peace and joy I now de-part Since God so wills it.
2 Christ Je - sus brought this gift to me, My faith - ful Sav - ior,
3 You sent the peo - ple of the earth Their great sal - va - tion;
4 Christ is the hope and sav - ing light Of those in blind - ness;



Se - rene and con - fi - dent my heart; Still - ness fills it.
Whom You have made my eyes to see By Your fa - vor.
Your in - vi - ta - tion sum - mons forth Ev - 'ry na - tion
He guides and com - forts those in night By His kind - ness.



For the Lord has prom - ised me That death is but a slum - ber.
Now I know He is my life, My friend when I am dy - ing.
By Your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, In ev - 'ry place re - sound - ing.
For Your peo - ple Is - ra - el In Him find joy and glo - ry.

Text (st. 1): © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001799
Text (sts. 2-4) and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

The Offertory


Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

The Prayers

Various Petitions are prayed. Each petition will conclude with the response:

P: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

The Congregation, gathered for worship in person, will now be receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. This most significant portion of the Divine Service, when our Lord Jesus Christ draws near to His people with His flesh and blood, will not be streamed. Members desiring to receive the Sacrament who are unable to be present in the Church will be visited by one of our pastors to bring them the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Those who have joined us online for the Service of the Word are now encouraged to pray the 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.**

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Please call Pastor Knox (319/231-9761) if you would like to receive a Pastoral visit.

✠ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✠

Sun. 12/31	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class (No Sunday School)
Tue. 1/2	9:00 a.m.	Brunch Bunch at Cedar Falls Family Restaurant
Wed. 1/3	10:00 a.m.	Our Redeemer Book Club
	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	5:25 p.m.	Adult Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
Sat. 1/6	9:00 a.m.	The Epiphany of Our Lord Divine Service
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
Sun. 1/7	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer – The Baptism of Our Lord
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class and Sunday School

HYMNS/READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

January 6, 2023 The Epiphany of Our Lord

The Readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1-12

Invocation: The Star Proclaims The King Is Here..... 399

Gradual: O Savior Of Our Fallen Race..... 403

Hymn of the Day: Brightest And Best Of The Stars. 400

Distribution: As With Gladness Men Of Old..... 397

January 7, 2023 The Baptism of Our Lord

Readings: Genesis 1:1–5; Romans 6:1–11; Mark 1:4–11

Processional: From God The Father, Virgin-Born..... 401

Gradual: All Who Believe And Are Baptized 601

Hymn of the Day: To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord 405

Distribution: To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord 406

Distribution: Songs Of Thankfulness And Praise 394

Distribution: O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly..... 897

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. The class will take a break from the study of Revelation this morning and resume with Revelation 8 on 1/7/24.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on 12/31. It will resume on 1/7/24.

WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. The class studies the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday. It is a way to prepare for the coming week’s Divine Service.

THE VICAR’S BIBLE STUDY meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 9:00 a.m. The class also meets at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings of the same week at Peace in Shell Rock. The class is studying “Agricultural Themes” throughout the Bible. The class will resume on January 8/9.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet with our Vicar on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 ALTAR FLOWERS – Donations for Altar Flowers for 2024 can now be given. To reserve a Sunday, please place your name on the Flower Chart in the Parish Hall and fill out a flower donation card which is under the chart. Alternatively, contact Sara Lair – (319) 830-4370 or sjlair@cfu.net. Cost is \$40.00 plus tax – Bancroft will bill you directly.

BRUNCH BUNCH will meet this Tuesday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant which is at 2627 Center Street in Cedar Falls.

UPDATED PHOTO DIRECTORY This week we plan to print a new Congregational Photo Directory. Today is your last chance to have an updated photo taken. Tammy will be taking photos in the lower level of the Education Wing during refreshment time. Please check the draft directory which is in either the Narthex or in the Parish Hall. Make sure that your information is correct. If everything is ok, put a check mark or your initials in the margin. If information needs to be corrected, please note what changes need to be made.

THE EPIPHANY EDITION OF THE REPORTER is available in the Narthex following the Service this morning.

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER AND LUTHERAN WITNESS are available in the Narthex.

THE OUR REDEEMER BOOK CLUB will begin a new book, “*The Messianic Message: Predictions, Patterns, and the Presence of Jesus in the Old Testament,*” by R. Reed Lessing and Andrew E. Steinmann this Wednesday, January 3, at 10:00 a.m. (prior to the weekly Pericopes study). For a book, contact Sara Lair (319) 266-1163; sjlair@cfu.net. The book will “equip you to find the message about the Messiah in each book of the Old Testament.” We welcome new members!



EPIPHANY SERVICE – SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 Our Redeemer and Peace will observe the Festival of The Epiphany of Our Lord on Saturday, January 6 with the Divine Service at 9:00 a.m. at Our Redeemer. On this day the Church marks the beginning of the Epiphany Season and recalls the visit of the Magi who worship the King of the Jews.

THANK YOU Dear members of Our Redeemer. It is with great appreciation that Tammy and I, along with our children, express our thankfulness for the many kind expressions of love this Christmas season. As we rejoice in God’s gracious care this past year, we also look forward to the year ahead and wish all of you a blessed New Year. Pastor Knox

THANK YOU Dear members of Our Redeemer, our family has been touched by the outpouring of love we received during this Christmas season. We are truly grateful for your full embrace of us as members of your congregation. We pray for the Lord's blessings upon all of you in the coming year. The Bakers

2024 OFFICERS At the November Voters’ Meeting the following were elected to serve as Officers during 2024. The installation of Officers will take place on Sunday, January 14th.

President: Doug Nefzger
Vice-President: Stephen Hoffman
Stewardship: Dave Kmoch
Christian Care: Char Strub
Financial Secretary: Greg Gerjerts
Elders: Ryan Thornton, Alan Czarnetzki
Trustees: Brad Bovy, Dusty Greiman
Endowment Committee: David Jackson

They join the following whose terms of office continue in 2024:

Secretary: Gerry Peterson
Treasurer: Tim Koch
Education: Ryan Thornton
Youth: Anna Staudinger
Communication and Outreach: Jim Niebergall
Elders: Matt Kenitzer, Tom Strub, Stephen Hoffman, Rod Lair
Trustees: Chris Fink, Dean Fink, Blake Wayson, Kelly Barber
Endowment Committee: Dave Kmoch, Cathy Niebergall