



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

*Transforming Lives and Building Community by  
Loving God and Serving Others*



Worship YouTube  
Click [HERE](#)

Sunday Connection  
Time 11:00 AM  
Click [HERE](#)

Christmas Day  
Worship (Synod)  
9 AM Click [HERE](#)

Online Offerings  
Click [HERE](#)

## Keeping Us Tied Together!

December 17, 2020

**Christmas Eve Worship Services in the parking lot @ 4:00, 5:00, & 9:00 PM**

**All our services can be viewed on [YouTube](#)**

### Christmas will certainly be different – but it is also the same

We trust that you are finding and planning for Christmas in different ways this year – with safety and separation being a gift you give others while this Coronavirus continues to impede the ways we want to live and celebrate. Be safe. Be smart. And consider these days as a really long Advent where waiting is the work of us people – for there is good news and life ahead.

But Christmas is also the same. The world's activities and events and diseases does not change the Christmas news that God choose to enter the world in the person of Jesus in order to know us, love us, and ultimately to save and redeem us. That news does not change, so Christmas will be the same.

Even our worship now is different – yet the same. We still offer praise and prayers, even if it is in our homes versus the sanctuary. This Christmas we won't be together to sing the great Christmas hymns but we will gather for our first outside winter worship (4 PM, 5 PM, and 9 PM for 30 minutes) even with our traditional candle lighting while singing Silent Night—only with battery operated candles! Yes, so much is different – but in most important ways it is the same as decades and generations back – A savior has been given! One more different thing: this year there is a special Christmas Day service being provided by the St. Paul Synod Office – see the link above (and on the next page in the tree). **Merry Christmas!**

### Holy Communion

As we are not able to gather in person, Our Redeemer has returned to abstaining from Holy Communion until the time when we can be gathered together once again as a community.

### Online Worship into February

The Church Board decided at its December meeting that we will continue with online-only worship into at least mid-February. While we are waiting for the number of COVID-19 cases to go down, we hope to be able to regather for in-person worship this Lent, which begins on February 17.

### Christmas Garden – There is still time to place your order

It's not too late to order your Christmas poinsettia in honor or in memory of loved ones—the cost is \$14 per plant. The form is this newsletter, or you can contact the office. You will be able to pick up your plant(s) beginning Tuesday, December 22, through Thursday, December 24, or after Christmas. Call ahead or stop at the church between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Or pick them up if you are here for our Christmas Eve outdoor services.

### Can't View Online Worship Services? Now you can!

#### View Sunday Services at Church on Wednesdays at Noon

We are offering the option for people to view our previous Sunday service on the big screen in our Sanctuary every **Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.** This is for everyone and yet beneficial for those who lack technology to view the worship services at home or for those who are extra careful about being in public with groups. We limit attendance to 10 people, assuring that social distancing seating and wearing of masks is important. We request that there be no social gathering inside the church prior to or following the viewing. We will have masks available for free for those needing them. Contact the office if you wish to sign up for any of the Wednesdays.

### Toffee, Rosettes and BoBo Balls

A great big buttery thank you to everyone who helped with the 19th Annual CYF Cookie Shop. Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and helped with the event. The pre-order and drive-thru plan worked quite well to accommodate cookie sales during a pandemic. Over \$2000 was raised for CYF activities, camperships, and special events. Thank you!



### God at the Movies 101: Jojo Rabbit (PG-13)

SUN, DEC 20 AT 7 PM on Zoom: [bitly.com/ORLCmovies](https://bitly.com/ORLCmovies)

We will meet again on Zoom this Sunday night, December 20 at 7 p.m. to discuss Jojo Rabbit. *Please watch the movie before we meet as it makes for better discussion! Joan Paulson has a DVD if you wish to borrow it.*

Here is a teaser of the upcoming movie..."Jojo is a lonely German boy who discovers that his single mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic. Aided only by his imaginary friend -- Adolf Hitler -- Jojo must confront his blind nationalism as World War II continues to rage on."

### Receiving Year-End Gifts

At the end of the year, we would welcome any additional gifts you might like to make toward Our Redeemer. Whatever we receive will help us cover financial obligations for this difficult year and help us begin 2021 on the best possible foot. One thing people might consider is that for this tax year there is a universal \$300 deduction for giving through the CARES Act for those who do not list itemized deductions. Any giving, up to \$300, to Our Redeemer will be a tax deduction, so consider this as added incentive to make a special year-end gift. For more information call the office. **An additional welcomed option:** This year, the *Missions Team* is inviting you to spread your wings and be someone's *Angel*. See the form in this issue for an opportunity to give to all or one of our mission groups that we have embraced through the years—or simply call the office.

### Mark your calendar: Virtual Annual Meeting – January 31 @ 11 AM

Plan for our annual congregational meeting on January 31 at 11:00 a.m. virtually via Zoom (and possibly in the sanctuary). We will vote on our annual budget and new board members. More information to come in January.

### Volunteers Needed! North St. Paul Food Shelf

The **North St. Paul Food Shelf** could use some volunteers! If you have 2 or 4 or 5 hours of time once a week or a month that you could spare for a good cause, please contact Kathi Kirchoff at [kathik717@hotmail.com](mailto:kathik717@hotmail.com) or 651-245-3533. The help needed is for stocking shelves and sorting through and organizing items. The hours can be during daytime hours or the evening.

## Our Deepest Sympathy

We were sorry to hear that one of Our Redeemer's long-time members of nearly 25 years, **Roger Sparks**, passed away December 4 at the age of 87. He is survived by his two daughters, Debi (Dan) and Sue, and son, Ron, as well as seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. At times in his years at ORLC, Roger was an usher, greeter, on our newsletter committee, as well as the Over 55 and the Promise-keeper groups. The family held a private memorial service on Wednesday. You can send your condolences to Roger's family at his home address: 1510 Sherren Avenue E, Maplewood, MN 55109, or on the obituary site: [Roger Sparks Obituary - St Paul, MN \(dignitymemorial.com\)](http://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituary/Roger-Sparks) Check out the great photo of Roger in his younger years (on this obituary site).

## Giving of Your Offerings

- Mail your offering/envelope to the office or drop it off in the locked mailbox located near our front entrance. Our address: ORLC, 1390 Larpenteur Ave E, St. Paul, MN 55109
- Go online at the link [www.orlcmn.org/donate](http://www.orlcmn.org/donate), which is also available on our website ([www.orlcmn.org](http://www.orlcmn.org)) by clicking the "Make Donation" button on the front page; this allows you to make an automatic withdrawal from your bank or financial institution, or by using a credit card. You can make a one-time or a recurring contribution. (There is a minimal cost to use a credit card.)
- Text **844-871-2328**, entering the amount you wish to give in the message line, press send, and you will then receive instructions to continue making your contribution.



### December 2020 Happenings

<b>Worship Services (Online)</b>	<b>Christmas Eve: Outdoors in our parking lot at 4, 5, &amp; 9 p.m. for 30 minutes (see 1<sup>st</sup> page)</b> <b>Every Sunday @ 10 a.m. on YouTube (and can be viewed anytime after)</b> <b>Wednesdays @ 12 noon at Church in Sanctuary (by appointment)</b>
<b>Scriptures &amp; Lectors</b>	<b>December 20:</b> Luke 1:26-45, 46-56, "Jesus' Birth Announced" <b>December 24:</b> Luke 2:1-14, 15-20, Christmas Eve "Birth of Jesus" TBD <b>December 25:</b> Luke 2:8-20, Christmas Day "Shepherds visit" N/A <b>December 27:</b> Luke 2:21-28, "Simeon and Anna" <i>Dianne Derks, Cherie Kilbride, Holly Forsberg, Denise Olgbaiye, Lana Larsen, Bruce Ring, Joe France</i>
<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. On Zoom (Contact the office if you need help with Zoom.)</b>
<b>Loaves &amp; Fishes</b>	<b>December 23, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Drive-thru – A Christmas Dinner (ham with vegetable &amp; side)</b>
<b>Movie Discussions</b>	<b>December 20:</b> Discussion on Zoom @ 7 p.m. See article in this newsletter for details.
<b>Young Adult Collab</b>	<b>December 20 @ 12 noon.</b> Outdoors at Our Redeemer around a bonfire.

#### CONNECTING ON ZOOM!

##### SUNDAYS—Our Redeemer Connection Time

11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Meeting ID: 947 3459 2014 Passcode: orlc

##### WEDNESDAYS—Bible Study

9:30—10:30 a.m.

Meeting ID: 938 5603 8724 Passcode: orlc

##### THIRD SUNDAYS—Movie Conversation on Racism

7:00—8:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/96332478590>

Meeting ID: 963 3247 8590 Passcode: orlc

Or participate by phone: 312-626-6799

(long distance charges may apply)

#### CONTACT US - We are here for you!

We are generally in the office Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.; and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.—5 p.m. However, please reach out to us anytime beyond these hours as we want to hear from you if you have prayer or other needs.

Pastor Karsten - [karstenn@comcast.net](mailto:karstenn@comcast.net) 651-772-2445, ext. 102  
or at 651-271-5134

Deacon Jennifer - [jennifer@orlcmn.org](mailto:jennifer@orlcmn.org) 651-772-2445, ext. 103  
or at 651-494-7943

Finance Administrator, Lisa - [Lisa@orlcmn.org](mailto:Lisa@orlcmn.org)  
651-772-2445, ext. 101

Office Administrator, Sally - [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org)  
651-772-2445, ext. 101

### Merry Christmas from the Staff and Board of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church!

*Pastor Karsten Nelson*

*Deacon Jennifer Schneider*

*Lisa Diez*

*Sally Kupferschmidt*

*Tom Marcus*

*Curt Morales*

*Amy Lindquist*

*Jim Vansell*



*Hilary Hinrichs, President*

*Dean Ersfeld*

*Baryogar Johnson*

*Cherie Kilbride*

*Julie Peterson*

*Michelle Rebholz*

*Roy Wong*



## Christmas Flowers

A wonderful way to remember your loved ones, or honor special people in your life, is to purchase a Christmas plant. Simply complete the form below and return it to the office by December 24 with your payment. Make checks payable to **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church** and indicate **"Christmas Flowers."** Beginning December 22, you may pick up your plant (or leave it to be passed along to a shut-in).

Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$14 per plant = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**In HONOR of:** Please PRINT

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**In MEMORY of:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info (phone or email): \_\_\_\_\_

(Detach and send to ORLC, 1390 Larpenteur Ave E,  
St. Paul, MN 55109 or drop it in our mailbox or  
call the office.)



## Angels We Have Heard On High!

Get an Angel, Be an Angel...

An **Angel** reminds us of how the Virgin Mary learned she would have a son that she would name Jesus. What a miracle!

This year, the *Missions Team* is inviting you to spread your wings and be someone's **Angel**. Due to social distancing, we will not be participating in traditional ways of gathering and giving at Christmas time. We ask that you consider the pandemic way of giving and mail a donation that will go to one or more places we are connected with as listed below. Place a dollar amount next to your choice(s):

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Bega Kwa Bega (Kidewa, Tanzania)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Doulos Discovery School (Domin Rep)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Merrick Community Services (St. Paul)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL GIVING AMOUNT**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

By **December 31**, please mail or drop off your donation to church and it will be directed accordingly. Make checks payable to ORLC and note "Mission Angel" (or online at [www.orlcmn.org/donate](http://www.orlcmn.org/donate)).

If you didn't get one of the handcrafted paper angels (by Jessica Morgan), or would like another, contact the office. They make great gift tags, tree or window ornaments!

(Detach and send to ORLC, 1390 Larpenteur Ave E, St. Paul, MN 55109, or drop it in our mail box, or call the office.)



## HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, December 20, 2020

*This is a simple format that allows you—whether by yourself or with others—to take some dedicated time and enjoy the gift of worship in your home setting. If others are with you, the words in **blue** and **green** could be spoken by alternating individuals. Find a quiet place, light a candle, and lift your heart and voice to God.*

### Gathering

We gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen  
(you can make the sign of the cross on your forehead or over your body)

### Opening Prayer

God of surprises, You blessed Mary and Elizabeth with the gift of holy children, and they faithfully embraced your calling. Give us peace and joy as we await your coming among us, in the form of a humble baby—our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Confession

We confess our sins before God and one another.  
*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Renewing God, You have come into our world to live among us, yet we often lose sight of this and seek to manufacture our own truth. We are afraid to share your word lest others judge or mock us. We ignore your wisdom because it isn't convenient. We allow ourselves to be defeated by despair. Forgive our negligence and breathe new life into our heavy hearts.

God knows our every weakness and still loves us and upholds our life. May your sins be forgiven, your past forgotten, and your hope restored in the name of our incarnate savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Song - You can sing or read "Canticle of the Turning"

1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.

2 For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-45

### Scripture Reflection

The scene begins with the specifics of time and location: it is the sixth month, and the event takes place in Nazareth. Noting when and where are key, not to test the validity of these events, but because they connect to the real history of salvation that is playing out in time and space.

God sends Gabriel to Mary to deliver a message. Readers of the Gospel have already met Gabriel, who delivered a similarly strange message to Zechariah in the previous section of Luke. Gabriel's greeting that the Lord is with her is a familiar one throughout Scripture, as it denotes that God's promises are ones to be trusted (see Genesis 26:24 to Isaac, Exodus 3:13 to Moses, Acts 18:9-10 to Paul)—Matthew's Gospel goes further to call Jesus Emmanuel, literally meaning "God is with us." Mary's shock at Gabriel's appearance and news should not be surprising: angels would be a shock to anyone, especially someone familiar with the Hebrew Bible and how God reveals God's self through these heavenly messengers.

How do you general receive messages or news? Do different sources of news or messages have more validity? When you receive unexpected news, how do you respond? Put yourself in the room with Mary as she receives the angelic visit. What do you see, feel, smell, taste? How does the atmosphere in the room change before and after the visit?

Gabriel calms Mary's anxiety by noting that "nothing will be impossible with God," using language like what the Lord said to Sarah after promising her children. Mary places her trust in Gabriel's words and thus in God's "with-ness" in her life and into the future. When in your life have you felt God's calming presence? Did it come through a message from another person or news source? How does this message bring hope to Mary? To your own life?

## Prayers

If you are with others, invite each person to pray. *Here is a set of prayers you may use:*

Faithful God, As Mary sought support from her cousin Elizabeth, so lead us to those who can help us in times of unusual challenge in our lives, rather than thinking we can take on the world all by ourselves. God of hope, Hear our prayer.

Bright Morning Star, As the longest stretch of darkness approaches, shine your light in our hearts that we might reflect it outward to a cold world waiting for your salvation. God of hope, Hear our prayer.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, all creatures praise your name, Creator Lord. May we join their song and live as faithful inhabitants of your abundant earth, caring for all that lives and taking only what we need. We pray for the wildfires in California, that people and animals would be safely evacuated as firefighters continue to battle the blaze. We pray also for Namibia, battling persistent drought for close to four years that has dried up pastures and shrunk grazing lands. God of hope, Hear our prayer.

Be with all who are anticipating the birth or adoption of a child: the excited and hopeful, the nervous and conflicted, the fearful and anxious. Bless all children, especially those who are born into difficult circumstances and give parents strength to shepherd the new lives they have created. And grant your healing power to all who need it most...God of hope, Hear our prayer.

We celebrate the life of Katharina von Bora Luther and all the renewers of your church, praying for your wisdom to continue their legacy of proclaiming grace. God of hope, Hear our prayer.

Jesus our Comforter, we pray for those who are ill, those who are lonely, those who are grieving. Let your Spirit embrace them with peace and comfort and healing. God of hope, Hear our prayer.

Our eyes await the fulfillment of all your promises, the answer to all our prayers: your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## Benediction

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God!**





## HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, December 27, 2020

### Lessons & Carols

This LESSONS & CAROLS format that allows you—whether by yourself or with others—to take some dedicated time and enjoy the gift of worship. If others are with you, the words in **blue** and **green** could be spoken by alternating individuals.  
Find a quiet place, light a candle, and lift your heart and voice to God.

**CAROL:** “The First Noel” #300

**READ:** John 1:1-5, 12-14

**REFLECTION:** from a sermon by St. Fulgentius of Ruspe, bishop (AD 460-533)

Our message is the Word of life. We announce what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes, what we have touched with our own hands. Who could touch the Word with his hands unless the Word was made flesh and lived among us? Now this Word, whose flesh was so real that he could be touched by human hands, began to be flesh in the Virgin Mary’s womb; but he did not begin to exist at that moment. Someone might interpret the phrase the Word of life to mean a word about Christ, rather than Christ’s body itself which was touched by human hands. But consider what comes next: *and life itself was revealed*. Christ therefore is himself *the* Word of life.

**PRAYER:** O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, you gave us the Word, your son Jesus in the flesh. Mark our lives with peace and use our lives to break down the walls of hatred and injustice. Make us advocates for all those who are weary and downtrodden by the chains of racism, islamophobia, xenophobia, homophobia. We pray for our government and leaders that they would enact legislation to care for the least of these. In Christ we pray. Amen.

**CAROL:** “What Child is This” #296

**READ:** Matthew 2:13-18

**REFLECTION:** Reading from a sermon of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux (AD 200-258)

As the Scriptures tell us: A little child has been given to us, but in him dwells all the fullness of the divine nature. God’s Son came in the flesh so that mortals could see and recognize God’s kindness. To show His kindness what more could he do beyond taking my human form? The incarnation teaches us how much God cares for us and what He thinks and feels about us. We should stop thinking of our own sufferings and remember what He has suffered. Let us think of all the Lord has done for us, and then we shall realize how His goodness appears through his humanity. The more He lowered himself for me, the dearer He is to me.

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, you came to us as a baby, meek and mild, innocent and pure. We pray for our children, keep them safe from harm and bless them. We lift up educators and support staff, childcare workers, nannies, babysitters, and parents. Help them to provide calm and safe learning environments where children can flourish. We also pray for children around the world who must work instead of going to school and those who are refugees fleeing from war-torn countries. Protect them from maltreatment and abuse. In Christ we pray, Amen.

**READ:** Luke 2:22-32

**PRAYER:** Everlasting God, we remember the saints who have gone before us. (*pause*) During this Christmastide, we long for their presence in our lives. Give us hope in their memories that we may too see your face on the last day. We also lift up our hurts and pain for families who are estranged and full of bitterness. Lover of peace and consolation, bring healing and new life. Soften hearts as we celebrate and remember the peace you bring in Jesus. Amen.

**READ:** Luke 2:41-52

**REFLECTION:** On Reformation Sunday each year, congregations across the country celebrate Affirmation of Baptism, more familiarly we call “Confirmation”. These are the gifts of faith that students learn about and are asked as they come to affirm their faith:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:  
to live among God’s faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

The response given by students is: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Each of the five gifts of discipleship has the potential to deepen our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit provides these gifts of discipleship with each of the five gifts flowing and overlapping with the others. On a daily basis, we are invited to live, hear, share, proclaim, serve, and strive—in the name of Christ. God guides and shapes us in the living of our baptism in the newness of life in Christ as we practice our faith each day. These five gifts help us to practice our faith and serve as a reminder of who has claimed us in baptism. If we do not practice faith, it is easy to get confused, complacent, chase other dreams, lose focus, and wander away from God’s calling—not reflecting our new life in Christ and the love of God. It is God’s work, but our hands as we are sent out into the world to be a visible witness to the love of Christ.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, both our work and our rest are in You. Help us endeavor to pattern our life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life. By the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon us in our commitment to serve in Christ’s name. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

**LESSON:** Mark 1:1-11

**REFLECTION:** An ancient reading (called a “Konatakion”) for the Birth of the Lord:

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters crying: “Come, one and all, receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, from Christ Who now has shone forth!” Today the nature of the waters is sanctified. The Jordan is parted in two; it holds back the flow of its waters as it beholds the washing of the Master. You have come to the river as a Man, O Christ the King, and hasten to be baptized like a servant by the Forerunner, on account of our sins. When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His Beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word.

**PRAYER:** Creator Lord, you created the earth and heavens, sky and water, birds, beasts, fish, and people. You saw all that you made and said it is good. For this we give thanks and praise. But we have sinned and degraded the earth, using it for our own gratification. Help us to preserve and protect your creation through land stewardship programs, recycling and composting our waste, and reducing our carbon emissions. In Jesus name, Amen.

**CAROL:** “Joy to the World” #267

**LESSON:** Mark 1:12-20

**REFLECTION:** Jesus commissioned his followers to, “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:10). Luke records that Jesus told his followers, “You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Teaching the nations and being Jesus’ witnesses entails more than simply telling people who Jesus is and what Jesus did. It also includes the tasks of the suffering servant—to minister to the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the captives, the prisoners. We rub shoulders with these people every day of our lives. They are all around us, and we have a precious, powerful and important gift to give them this Christmas and throughout the year.

**PRAYER:** Jesus our teacher and Lord, as you cared for the least of these, you showed us how you want us to live our lives. Help us to care for others and see the needs of the oppressed. We pray for those living in homeless camps, children in foster care, women trying to escape domestic violence, and those trapped in the sex trade. Bring hope to the hopeless. Use our lives in service to others that they may know of the mystery of your birth and life among us. Tender Savior, we pray, Amen.

## 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world to serve God with joy; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

