



Third Sunday of Advent  
*Joy*  
Gaudete Sunday

December 14, 2025 | 11 AM

# WELCOME!

**It is a joy to worship together.**

*As a community in the model of Christ, we warmly welcome all who have come seeking God in worship at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. We welcome people of every race, gender, ethnic background, social status, physical ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Together in our diversity and as a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we seek to embrace the love of God offered to us in Jesus Christ. We gather to experience the presence of God in Word and Sacrament and to give praise to God who loves us unconditionally.*

## **WORSHIP ONLINE OR BY PHONE (11am Service)**

By phone: call 1-206-337-9723. Then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method will let you listen in, but not view the service.

- By Facebook Live: Go to [www.facebook.com/ourredeemers](https://www.facebook.com/ourredeemers). You don't have to have a facebook account – it's a public channel.
- By Zoom: Download the Zoom app to your computer, tablet, or cell phone. It's free! Click this link: [https:// Zoom.us/j/822691346](https://zoom.us/j/822691346). (Upgrade Zoom to the current version.)

### **A Note About 11 AM Worship Recordings**

We livestream our 11:00 am service each week so that those at home can join in worship. If you'd prefer not to appear on camera, the back rows are out of view. Families, please know there is no expectation to send children forward for the children's message if you'd rather they not be recorded. Communion can be taken at your seat by letting an usher know.

**All are Welcome to Communion!** Christ hosts this meal, and ALL are invited to share this feast of life and forgiveness. Our shared communion bread is gluten free and we offer wine and grape juice. Children commune at the discretion of their parents. If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, simply let an usher know.

**OUR VISION:** In the model of Christ and for the life of the world, we are an inclusive, devoted, caring and spiritual community that accepts challenges, takes risks and grows.

*We are gathered on this land, which touches the shared waters of the peoples of the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot Nations. This is God's creation and home to the Coast Salish peoples, whose long history, voices, and practices call inhabitants to loving stewardship, faithful advocacy, and inclusive story-telling. We honor the Creator's presence in this land, confess our complicity in its brokenness, and proclaim our interconnectedness with God's creation and all its creatures.*

Cover Art: *Annunciation Joy* – artwork owned by Pastor Thomas

# GATHERING

*Advent and Christmas Theme – Believe. Behold.*

## WELCOME

## FAITH FORMATION

Adults: Meditation with Pastor Thomas (Library)  
ORCA Verse: Matthew 11:7-9

## CENTERING MUSIC

Flute and Piano Duet – Joanna Elizondo and Tricia Kloth

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed ☩ be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By God's great mercy we have been given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.  
(1 Peter 1:3)

**Through Christ we have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that our trust and hope are in God.** (1 Peter 1:21)

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (Acts 10:43)

**The prayer of faith will save...and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore we confess our sins to one another and pray for one another, so that we may be healed.** (James 5:15-16)

*Silence for contemplation.*

The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God...in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay. (Romans 8:18-21)

**In hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.** (Romans 8:24-25)

[Belief] is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. (Hebrews 11:1-4)

*continued*

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**Although we have not seen Jesus, we love him, and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for we are receiving the outcome of our faith, our salvation. (1 Peter 1:8-9)**

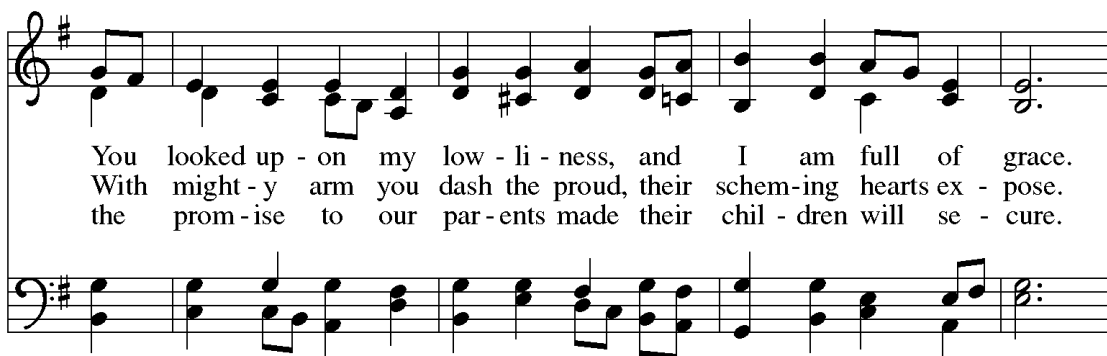
To all who receive Christ, who have belief in his name, he gives power to become children of God. (John 1:12) Behold ☩ what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. (1 John 3:1)

**\*OPENING HYMN**

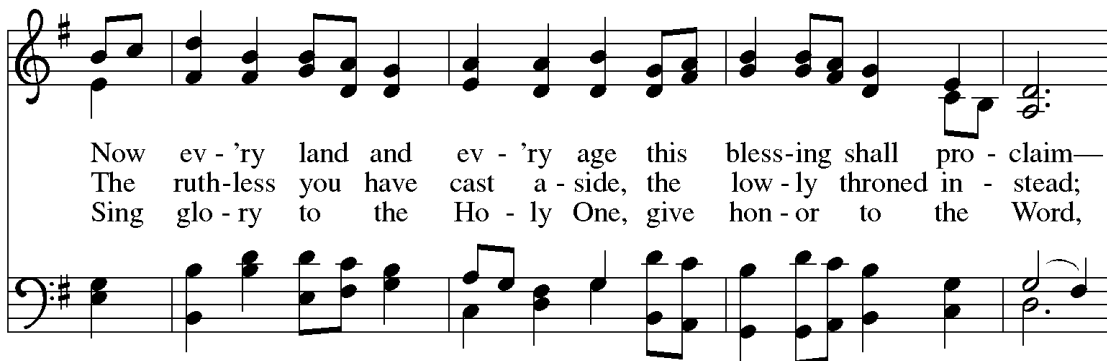
*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*



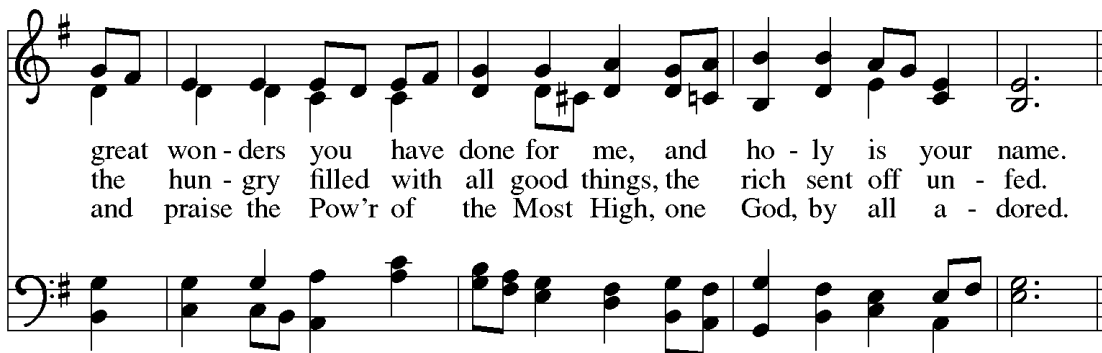
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



One License #85914

## \*APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
 be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**And also with you.**

## \*WREATH LIGHTING

*Wreath Lighters come forward.*

[God sent John] as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1:7-9)

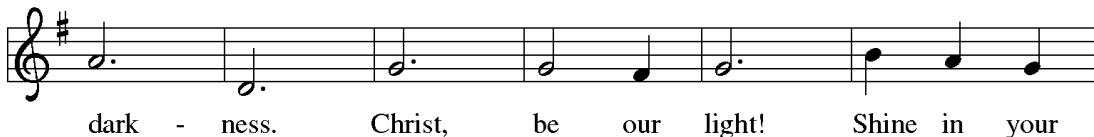
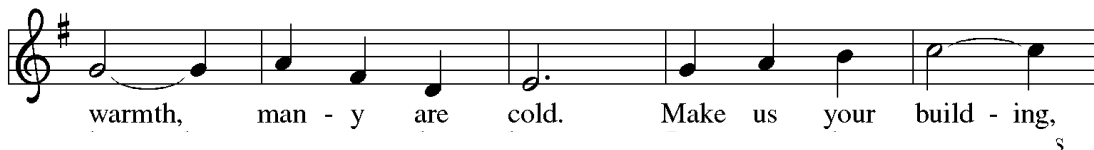
**What has come into being in him is life, and the life is the light of all people.**

(John 1:3-4)

*The Hope, Peace, and Joy Candles are lit.*

*Lighters:* The light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness has not overtaken it.** (John 1:3-5)



One License #80229

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may rejoice through your way of life for all creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# WORD

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. (*Romans 15:4*)

**Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**  
(*Romans 10:17*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Our ears and hearts are open.**

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

*continued*

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

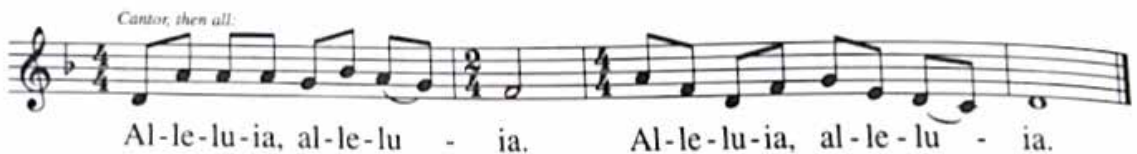
<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





## \*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

The Lord shall give you a sign;  
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Emmanuel. (*Isaiah 7:14*)

The holy gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

These [signs] are written so that you may continue to believe  
that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,  
and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.** (*John 20:31, 29*)



**\*INTERLUDE**

*Wait For the Lord*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

One License #00172


**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | SERMON**

Pastor Thomas Voelp





**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**


*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*




1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to




mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.



Public Domain

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Jesus said, “whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours,” and “all things can be done for the one who believes.” (*Mark 11:24, 9:23*)

*Silence for contemplation.*

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of faith and joy,

**hear our prayer.**

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of faith and joy,

**hear our prayer.**

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern.

God of faith and joy,

**hear our prayer.**

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. We pray especially for our neighbors, and those named in our prayer list. God of faith and joy,

**hear our prayer.**

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming immigrants; especially we pray for Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Global Refuge. God of faith and joy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the relational ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give us a spirit of generosity, eyes and ears attuned to joy and sorrow, and hearts for connection. Bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Raise leaders among us and give new life to our ministries of hospitality, welcome, and accompaniment. God of faith and joy,

**hear our prayer.**

*For whom and what else do we pray?*

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. We remember all those who have come before us who experienced the joy of motherhood, especially Sarah, the mother of Isaac, Elizabeth, the mother of John, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of faith and joy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God,  
believing your love for us and grace give us eternal comfort,  
and in good hope may be strengthened in heart by every good work and word,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

## MEAL

### \*PEACE

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1)

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*We greet each other with sign of Christ's peace  
by gesture and word, such as "Peace be with you."*

### OFFERING

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Let us make our offerings to God in good faith and hope out of love for his Son and one another.

Gifts may be made online at  
[www.ourredeemers.net/donate](http://www.ourredeemers.net/donate) or use this QR code.



### OFFERING MUSIC

Choir & Joanna Elizondo, Flute – "An Advent Credo" by Joseph M. Martin,  
with references to "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Gustav Holst

*continued*

Text: "I believe in joy. I believe in the promise of morning. I believe that Christ will come and wipe our tears away. I believe in hope. I believe in the life everlasting. I believe that Christ will come and bring a bright new day. Lord in my heart, I believe. When the darkness falls around me, in the still of the night, when shadows all surround me, faith will lead me to the morning light, to the morning light. I believe in peace. I believe in a song of tomorrow. I believe that Christ will come and war will be no more. I believe in love. I believe in the grace that unites us. I believe that Christ will come in glory from above. I believe in joy. I believe in peace. I believe in love. Lord, I believe. Lord, I believe. Lord, I believe."

# **\*OFFERING RESPONSE**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Public Domain

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray:

Gracious God, give us confidence in your faithfulness  
That we may hold fast to hope in your promises  
and be encouraged for your coming day. *(Adapted Hebrews 10:23-25)*

**Come to meet us today at your table,  
and strengthen us as we await to see  
with the whole creation  
the redemption and freedom  
that comes with your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.** *(Adapted Romans 8:19-25)*

## **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, Lord God!

Behold, it is you  
who made the heavens and the earth  
by your great power  
and by your outstretched arm!  
**Nothing is too difficult for you.  
You show steadfast love to the thousandth generation.**  
*(Jeremiah 32:17-18)*

Fulfilling the word of your prophets,  
you sent your messenger to announce your grace  
to Mary, the mother of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who believed “nothing is impossible” for you, saying,  
**“Behold, here I am, a servant of the Lord.”**  
*(Luke 1:37-38)*

We praise you that, at the right time,  
your Son died for us, (*Romans 5:6*)  
reconciling us through your love;  
the reign of sin is ended (*5:21*)  
**and your righteousness,  
attested by the Law and the Prophets,  
is disclosed through the faith for all who believe.**  
(*Romans 5:6, 21, 3:21-23*)

Behold! In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
(*1 Corinthians 11:23-24*)

**For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now  
we know only in part; then we will know fully, even as we are fully known.**  
(*1 Corinthians 13:12*)

May we have assurance and steadfastness of faith  
That by your grace and presence with us we will be  
restored, supported, and strengthened  
to endure with hope  
believing your love has been poured into our hearts  
by the power of your Holy Spirit  
and for the eternal glory of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**  
(*Adapted, Romans 5:3-5, 1 Peter 5:9-11*)



## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray in the language of our hearts as our Lord, Jesus has taught us.

**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.  
Forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Many of us have experienced  
rejection, exclusion, and marginalization  
at different times in our lives,  
but we come here,  
knowing we will not be turned away.  
So come, whether this is your first time, or your hundredth.  
All who have tried to follow,  
all God's people needing healing and wholeness;  
Come to this simple feast.  
God's table is big enough for all of us.

### **All Are Welcome**

*to commune, including children (as parents permit).*

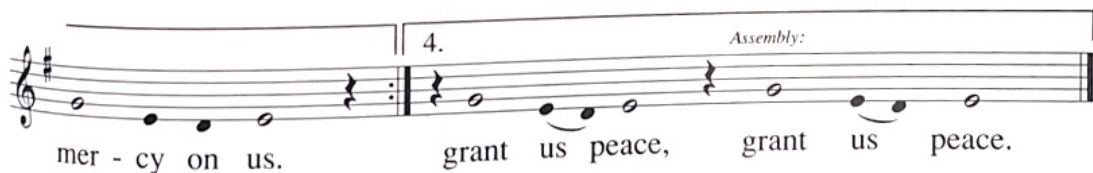
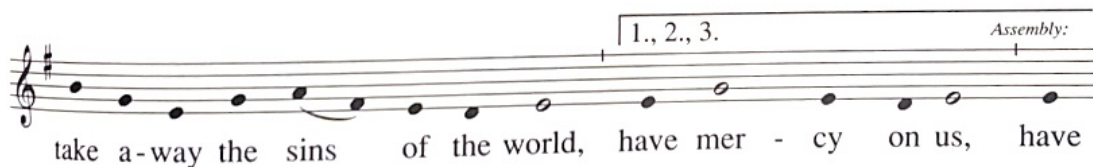


*After communing, please feel moved to light candles in witness  
of Christ's light in your life by prayer and inspiration.*

## AGNUS DEI



1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you
3. Key of Da - vid and Day-spring from on high:
4. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:



One License #06525



# COMMUNION HYMNS

*There is a Longing in our Hearts*

*Refrain — All*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

*Leader or All*



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:

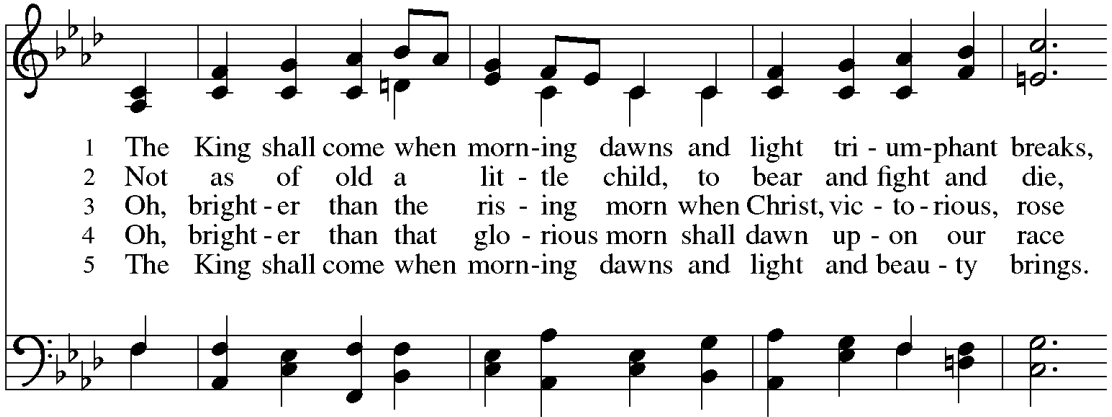
*Refrain*



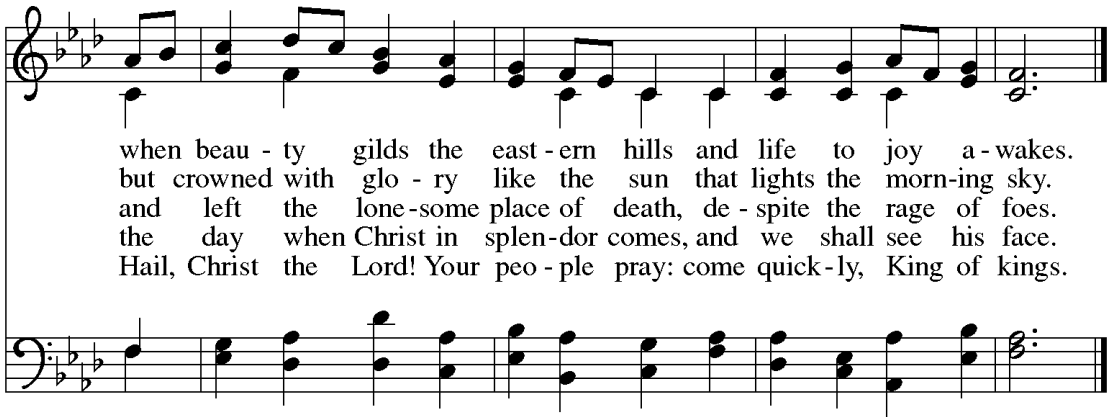
be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Public Domain

*The King Shall Come*



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

One Licesne #59724

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Jesus said, "The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." (*John 6:33, 29*)

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ  
keep you in everlasting grace  
and in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

With the eyes of our heart enlightened,  
**may we perceive what is the hope to which God has called us  
what are the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints  
and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe,  
according to the working of his great power. Amen. (Ephesians 1:15-19)**

## SENDING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luciafest – TODAY, 5:00 pm

Blue Christmas Service & Reception – Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 pm

Pageant Rehearsal – Saturday, December 20, 10:00 am

### \*BENEDICTION

It is already the moment for us to wake from sleep.


Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

**the night is far gone; the day is near. (Romans 13:11-13)**

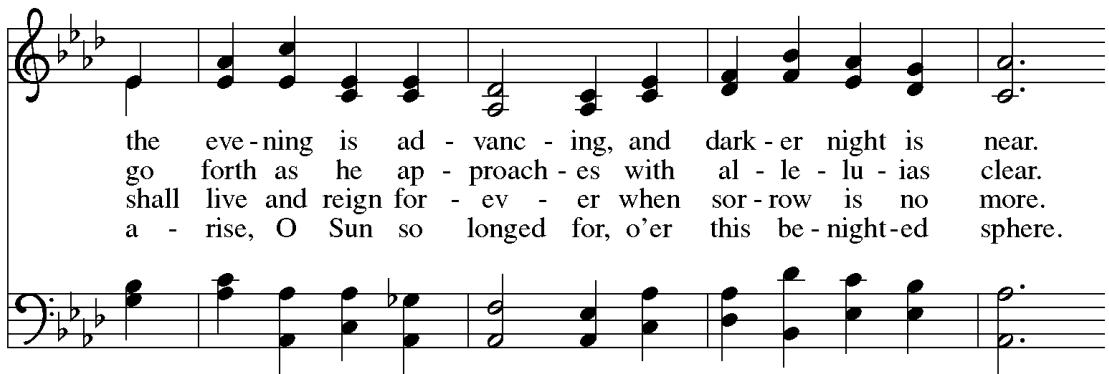
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and ☩ peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
(Romans 15:13)

**\*SENDING HYMN**

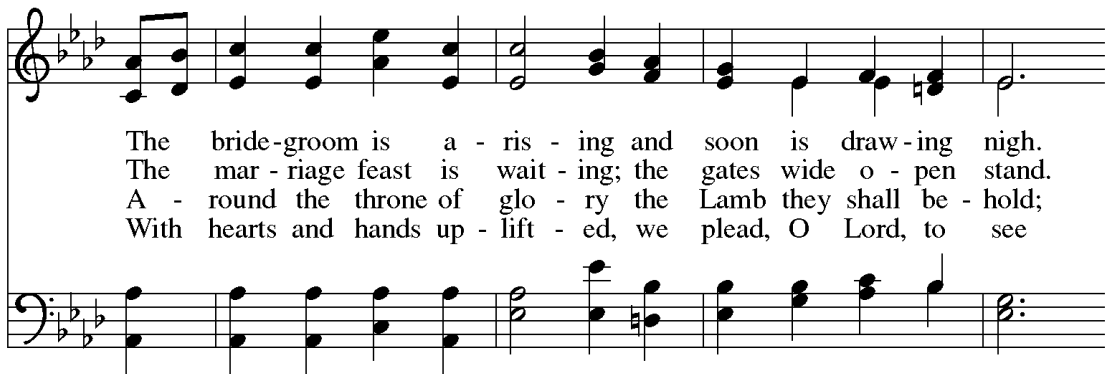
*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Public Domain

## \*DISMISSAL

Jesus said, "I am going away, and I am coming to you.

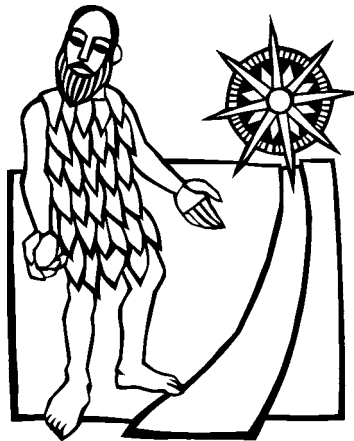
I have told you this before it occurs,

**so that when it does occur you may believe."**

Let us be on our way. (*John 14:28-29, 31*)

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE



### **We Pray for...**

Barton Bjugstad, Faye Buckalew, Tom Carlson, Jennifer Carter, Pat D'Amico, Pete D'Amico, Davis family, Cindy Ege, Meggan Ellingboe, Gerry & Bob Faley, Cindy Funai, Don Hansen, Donnalyn Hansen, Hartje family, Shirley Holt and family, Tyson Hunter, Helen Jones, Joy Kimotho, Bud Knapp, Leander family, Judy Malmgren, Roger Mandery, Martin, Erin Miller, Barbara Moen & family, Julie Osinski, Iko Rodenberger, Ambrose Roth, Kjersti Sangrey, David Schrader, Sharon Stearns, Carolyn Swanson, Richard Johnson and family, Gary T., Eliot Wright and family, Jon Wright, Kelly Wright; asylum seekers, refugees, and those seeking housing and a home; those living with mental illness and loneliness; children and parents; immigrant families remaining separated; those outside in the elements; Road to Housing guests.

### **Grieving the Loss of**

S. Culver, Kenneth Leander

*To include someone in the prayers, email the church  
(pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net)*

*Requests received after each Wednesday will be put in the  
following week's bulletin.*

### **IN OUR SERVICES TODAY**

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Thomas Voelp

Worship Assistant: Connie Sandstrom

Lector: Tamara Anderson

Communion Setup: Marie Nordquist

Communion Servers: Linda Carbone,

Niels Running

Usher: Cindy Anderson

Online Host: Erica Lee

Musicians: Karen Lee, Our Redeemer's Choir,  
Joanna Elizondo, Tricia Kloth



*Our Redeemer's is proud to be a  
Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church.*

## **Our Redeemer's Staff**

### **Pastor Thomas Voelp**

[pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net)  
(206) 783-7900 ext. 2

### **Gianfranco Foddai**

Informal Worship & Music Director  
[gianfranco@ourredeemers.net](mailto:gianfranco@ourredeemers.net)

### **Kenna Hight**

Faith Formation Coordinator  
[faithformation@ourredeemers.net](mailto:faithformation@ourredeemers.net)

### **Karen Lee**

Traditional Worship & Music Director  
[karen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:karen@ourredeemers.net)

### **Debbie Lematta**

Communications Coordinator  
[communications@ourredeemers.net](mailto:communications@ourredeemers.net)

### **Lake Neill**

Volunteer Coordinator  
[volunteer@ourredeemers.net](mailto:volunteer@ourredeemers.net)

### **Justine Ranney**

Administrative Assistant  
[office@ourredeemers.net](mailto:office@ourredeemers.net)

### **Karie Stearns** x101

Administrator  
[administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net)

**[www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net) | 206.783.7900**  
**2400 NW 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98117**

*Music reprinted under CCLI License #2540500, OneLicense.  
net #A-706853, and LicensOnline #L10114. Liturgy  
reprinted under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License  
#SAS000631.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more details, check the website or current newsletter.



## worship

### **9 AM Informal Sunday Worship | In-person**

Our 9:00 am service is casual and welcoming, perfect for exploring faith in a comfortable setting. Enjoy a mix of contemporary and familiar music, interactive worship, and opportunities to engage at your own pace. Children are always part of the community, with a staffed nursery available for little ones who need extra care.

### **11 AM Traditional Sunday Worship | In-person & Online**

The 11:00 am service celebrates Lutheran tradition with prayers, responses, and gestures that draw us into a meaningful rhythm. Music is central, featuring hymns, organ, choir, and special music. Focused on God's grace, this service invites you to pause, be grounded in faith, and connect with a multi-generational community, whether in the sanctuary or online.

### **"Prophecies and Promises"**

A Single Service at 10 AM-December 28th

Join us for a special service reflecting on the prophecies of Christ's coming and the promises his birth brings. We'll sing Christmas hymns and songs (different from Christmas Eve), share in a simple call-and-response style of worship, and take time to look back with gratitude and forward with hope. Come gather for the joy of Christmas—without the extra pageantry.

## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

Wednesday, Dec 24

### **4 PM Family**

#### **Candlelight Service**

A joyful communion  
service suited for  
families and children.

### **10 PM Traditional**

#### **Candlelight Service**

All the tradition with  
familiar songs, our choir,  
handbells, and orchestra.





# LUCIAFEST

*The Light of Hope  
is a Crown of Joy.*

**SUNDAY DEC 14 5PM**

## Blue Christmas

While for some the holidays can be joyful,  
many of us struggle with grief and sadness.

If this resonates with you, know you are  
invited to Blue Christmas. We gather just as  
we are to pray, ask God for consolation, and  
lay our burdens down.

You are welcome to participate as fully or as  
passively as you like. Peace to you.



**When the holidays are difficult.**

**Tuesday, 7 PM  
December 16**

Refreshments following the service  
provided by the Caring Committee Team.  
Childcare provided.

Don't hesitate to call the church  
office for more information.  
(206)783-7900



2400 NW 85th Street, Seattle



# faith formation

TRANSFORMING SPIRITUALITY

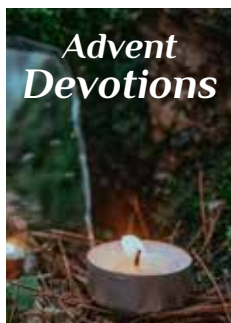
## It's An Our Redeemer's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21, 11 AM

Our annual Christmas pageant will take center stage during the 11:00 am worship service next Sunday, December 21st. Everyone is welcome!

Children of all ages are welcome to participate. We'll gather for a single rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 am to assign roles, distribute costumes, and bring this simple yet magical pageant to life. The rehearsal will be followed by a pizza lunch in the Fellowship Hall!

The pageant is a wonderful way to celebrate the season and create lasting memories. We'd love to hear from you! Contact Kenna Hight ([faithformation@ourredeemers.net](mailto:faithformation@ourredeemers.net)) if your family wants to be a part of this Christmas tradition!



## The Circle of Light: A Celtic Way to Advent

This year, we're embracing a Celtic approach to Advent—beginning a little earlier and grounding ourselves in contemplation, anticipation, and hope.

Our daily prompts, offered in a weekly calendar, will guide you through forty days of reflection and spiritual practice, culminating on Christmas Eve.

Printed calendars will be available each Sunday (for the following week's devotions) through Dec 21. If you'd like to receive the calendar by mail or email, please contact the church office.

## Come to Holden Village | Summer 2026 July 5-10 | Registration Opens January 2nd

Our Redeemer's Week at Holden Village is set for July 5-10, 2026! It's a special time for connection, reflection, and learning amidst the beautiful surroundings of Holden Village.

Our Redeemer's Week at Holden Village is scheduled for Sunday-Friday, July 5-10. These dates include the two travel days, giving you the full Monday-Thursday program in the village. Want more unhurried time for rest and exploration? You're welcome to add the weekend before or after your stay.

This week offers a special opportunity for connection, reflection, and learning in the stunning surroundings of Holden Village. Everyone will register directly through Holden Village, as we did last year.

Registration opens at 10 AM on January 2, 2026, and spots may fill quickly—so plan to sign up early.

Register at: [www.ηολδενπιλλαγε.org](http://www.ηολδενπιλλαγε.org)



# community

## **Christmas Eve Volunteer Opportunities** **Help make the Christmas Eve Services happen!**

We need volunteers to assist to help with our 4:00 pm Family Candlelight Service or our 10:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service. Volunteer jobs entail serving communion as a family, lighting the Advent wreath, ushering, greeting, and presenting various readings or prayers. If you or your family are interested participating, you are encouraged to email Lake, [volunteer@ourredeemers.net](mailto:volunteer@ourredeemers.net) or sign up at this link: <https://rebrand.ly/e87v72g>, or use the QR code at right.



## **Ballard Food Bank December Drive**

**Food | Socks | Personal Hygiene Items - through December 17**

As winter approaches, the need at the Ballard Food Bank is growing. This December, we're collecting non-perishable food, new socks, and personal hygiene items to support our neighbors.

Please place socks in the designated container; all items will be delivered together.

Our collection runs through December 17, with delivery on December 18. Help is needed! If you can assist with transporting donations to , please contact Stephanie Running.

Thank you for offering comfort, dignity, and nourishment to our neighbors this season.



## **Poinsettias**

**Donate by December 17th**



Donations are being collected for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary this Christmas. Your donation may be given in memory of or to honor a loved one in your life and be acknowledged in our Christmas bulletins. Donate any amount you wish in a flower envelope available at church or use the QR code.

## **Let's Go Caroling December 21st**

Sunday, December 21, 12:30 PM

Join us in the narthex as we bring holiday cheer to members of Our Redeemer's community who can't make it to church.

We'll grab our caroling books and head out to nearby nursing homes and assisted living facilities to share the spirit of the season with heartfelt and festive Christmas carols.

Don't forget to wear your favorite Christmas sweaters, scarves, hats—and, most importantly, your smile! Let's make this season merry and bright together! RSVP to Karen Lee: [karen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:karen@ourredeemers.net). All are invited to participate in this special experience!

## **CPR/AED Training with the Seattle Fire Department**

Saturday, January 10, 1 PM | Fellowship Hall

The Seattle Fire Department will offer an Adult/Child/Infant CPR and AED training here at Our Redeemer's. Participants who wish to receive official certification may do so for a \$30 fee (cash or check made payable to Medic 2). This is a great opportunity to learn lifesaving skills—consider signing up!

To register, contact Justine at [office@ourredeemers.net](mailto:office@ourredeemers.net) or call (206) 783-7900.

## **Coming to a Table Near You!**

Sunday, January 11, 6 PM | Various Homes

Friendship – Connection – Good Food! All this and more can be yours if you sign up to attend and/or host one of the Breaking Bread Dinners on January 11, 2026. These potlucks in various homes give us a chance to spend time together, learning about each other's joys and struggles and forming deeper connections. Also, there's really good food!

Sign-ups will start in mid-December. Mark your calendar now. Questions? Contact Annie McGrew ([annemcgrew@msn.com](mailto:annemcgrew@msn.com)) or Cindy Anderson ([cindyrowanderson@gmail.com](mailto:cindyrowanderson@gmail.com)).

# Before the Year Ends... Make Your 2026 Commitment!

Thank you to all who have made their commitment to help cultivate a future rooted in faith, abundance, and hope and strengthens the ministries and mission we share.



If you haven't yet made your commitment, there's still time—fill out the form below or scan the QR code to fill out and submit a digital version of the form.

2025 Commitment Card

Your Estimated Total Amount of Giving for Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2026 \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I already give automatically with Simple Giving online

\_\_\_ Please update my giving to \$\_\_\_\_\_ per: week | month | yearly (circle one)

\_\_\_ I would like to increase my current automatic giving by \_\_\_\_\_%

☐ Sign me up for Automatic Simple Giving online

I would like to automatically give the following:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per: week | month | yearly (circle your giving frequency)

☐ I would like a percentage of my giving to be directed towards

Faith Formation: \_\_\_1% \_\_\_3% \_\_\_5%

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



# Christmas Season Events

## In our Narthex Our Redeemer's Giving Tree

Take a tag to help give gifts to children and families in need in our community.

### **TODAY-Sunday, December 14, 5 PM Luciafest!**

Tradition at its best with Lucia and her attendants, cookie smorgasbord, and dancing around the tree!

### **Tuesday, December 16, 7 PM Blue Christmas**

A mellow service for those who are feeling sadness at the holidays.

### **Sunday, December 21, 11 AM Christmas Pageant**

Our children and youth tell the Christmas story.

### **Sunday, December 21, after the Pageant Caroling to the Homebound**

Join Karen Lee and the choir to carol for those who can't make it to church. All are welcome!

### **Wednesday, December 24 4 PM Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

A brief, cheerful service of lessons and carols with a special message for kids!

### **Wednesday, December 24 10 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

All the tradition with familiar songs, handbells, choir, and orchestra.

## The Giving Christmas Tree

Take an ornament from Our Redeemer's giving tree and return the gift listed there by the due date in order to help local families this Christmas!

Gifts will be distributed through Mary's Place, Broadview-Thompson K-8, and our Road to Housing guests.



## This Week at Our Redeemer's

*Today, December 14, Sunday*

### **ADVENT 3**

#### **✚ 9 AM - Informal Worship**

10 AM - ORCA: Harbor Seals (5-11 y/o);  
Sea Lions (6th grade)

10:15 AM Otters (3-5 y/o)

#### **✚ 11 AM - Traditional Worship**

3-6 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner

**5 PM - LUCIAFEST | Our Redeemer's**

*December 16, Tuesday*

#### **✚ 7 PM - BLUE CHRISTMAS**

*December 17, Wednesday*

7 PM - Our Redeemer's Choir Rehearsal

*December 20, Saturday*

2 PM - Hand Bells Rehearsal

3 PM - Orchestra Rehearsal | Our  
Redeemer's

*December 21, Sunday*

### **ADVENT 4**

#### **✚ 9 AM - Informal Worship**

#### **✚ 11 AM - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

12:30 PM - Caroling to the Homebound

3 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard  
First Lutheran

Email [administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net) if you need online or in-person meeting help. Find meeting information in the announcements herein or on the church's [website calendar](#).



[www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net)

2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117