

+ Contemporary Worship +  
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

---

9:00 am August 17, 2025

**Our mission is to share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.**



+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Please stand.*

*Based on Psalm 82*

Pastor      God stands to charge the assembled.  
**All          God does not want us to judge unjustly.**

Pastor      Do we show favor to the wicked?  
**All          Do we save the weak and the orphan?**

Pastor      Do we defend the humble and needy?  
**All          Do we rescue the weak and the poor?**

Pastor      Let us no longer wander about in darkness.  
**All          Arise, O God, and rule the earth.**  
**Take all nations for your own.**

**GATHERING HYMN**  
*All sing.*

Text and music: Twila Paris

Text and music © 1984 Singspiration Music, a division of Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing

## We bow down

You are Lord of cre - a - tion and Lord of my life,  
Lord of the land and the sea. You were Lord of the heav - ens be -  
fore there was time, and Lord of all lords you will be.  
We bow down and we wor - ship you, Lord; we bow  
down and we wor - ship you, Lord; we bow down and we  
wor - ship you, Lord; Lord of all lords you will be.



### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**All Amen.**

Pastor God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us  
from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we  
may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**All Amen.**

Pastor Gracious God,  
**All have mercy on us.**  
**We confess that we have turned from you**  
**and given ourselves into the power of sin.**  
**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**  
**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,**  
**things we have done and things we have failed to do.**  
**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,**  
**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

Pastor God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us  
alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus  
Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through  
the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.  
**All Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Please stand and sing.*

### Wind of the Spirit



Wind of the Spir - it, move fresh as we wor - ship and  
fill us with hope ev - 'ry day.  
Breath of cre - a - tion, blow life in our be - ing, and  
gift us with pur - pose, we pray; so our  
life is filled with mean - ing, and love is what we're breath-ing in the  
wind of the Spir - it, wind of the Spir - it.

Text: Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

Music: WIND OF THE SPIRIT, Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

Text and music © 1991 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor

Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All

**Amen.**

## BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

## + THE WORD +

### **Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29**

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Reader            Word of God, word of life.  
All                **Thanks be to God.**

### **Reading: Hebrews 11:29--12:2**

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Reader            Word of God, word of life.  
All                **Thanks be to God.**

***Please stand and sing.***

## What a mighty word God gives

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'What a mighty Word God gives! When he speaks, our faith is fed. Give us, Lord, our dai - ly bread. God sent us the on - ly Son, who for us the vic - try's won. What a mighty Word God gives!'. The chords are: D, G, D, G, A/F#, Bm7, Em7, A7sus A7, D, G/A, D, G/E, D/F#, G, D/A, A7, D.

Text: James Tallman  
Music: anonymous  
Text © 1996 James Tallman

Pastor            The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.  
All                **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Luke 12:49-56**

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

Jesus said: "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son and son against father,  
mother against daughter and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

Pastor            The Gospel of the Lord.  
All                **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

*Storied People*  
*Pastor John Teitman*

*Please stand and sing.*

He who began a good work in you

He who be - gan a good work in you,

he who be - gan a good work in you

will be faith - ful to com - plete it,

will be faith - ful to com - plete it. He who start -

- ed the work will be faith - ful to com - plete it in you.

Text and music: Jon Mohr

# **APOSTLES' CREED**

Asst. Min.

All

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns. After each portion of the prayers:*

Asst. Min.                      God of grace,  
**All**                                **hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayer:*

Pastor                      Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
                                 trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**All**                                **Amen.**

## SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Pastor                      May the peace of Christ be with you always.

**All**                                **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another with words such as "God's peace be with you."*

*Sit*

## + SHARING OUR GIFTS +

### OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Our offerings to God are first of all just that—offerings of thanksgiving to God. As you are able please continue to support our ministry with your financial gifts.*

*Please sign the red attendance book and pass it down the pew.*

### OFFERING MUSIC

*"Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion" from 'Messiah' by G.F. Handel, Waka Osifchin*

### OFFERTORY

*Please stand and sing.*

We are an offering

Text and music: Dwight Liles  
Text and music © 1984 Bug and Bear Music, admin: Word Music, Inc.

The musical score is written on two staves. The first staff contains the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes. The chords are indicated above the notes.

Chords: G, C<sup>2</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>2</sup>/E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>/G, C

Lyrics: We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.



### OFFERING PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.  
All **Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good,  
and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table  
with these gifts of the earth  
that we may work for the good of all,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Amen.**

### + COME TO THE TABLE +

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

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

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

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.  
All **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.**

Pastor Come, for all is now ready.

### COMMUNION

***All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.***

*Communion will be offered by intinction.*

*For those not comfortable receiving from the pastor's hands  
a separate tray with preset elements is available.*

*Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine is invited to come forward  
for a blessing. To receive a blessing, please cross your arms.*

*You are an important part of our faith community.*

*In Holy Communion we receive the true body and blood of Christ.*

# COMMUNION SONG

*All sing.*

## Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

### ***Please stand.***

Pastor

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood,  
strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.

**All**

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER**

Asst. Min.

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation  
you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now  
send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your  
redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus  
Christ, our Lord.

**All**

**Amen.**

## **+ THE SENDING +**

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**All**

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**  
All sing.

# Your Everlasting Love

Isaiah 54:8-10

WORDS and MUSIC: Bill Batstone

$\text{♩} = 132$

1. Your ev - er - last - ing love is high - er,  
(2.) - er - last - ing love is deep - er,  
(3.) - er - last - ing love is reach - ing,

high - er, high - er than the sky. Your ev -  
deep - er, deep - er than the sea. Your ev -  
reach - ing, reach - ing out to me. Your ev -

er - last - ing love is high - er,  
er - last - ing love is deep - er,  
er - last - ing love is reach - ing,

high - er, high - er than the  
deep - er, deep - er than the  
reach - ing, reach - ing out to

sky, high - er than the sky.  
sea, deep - er than the sea.  
me, reach - ing out to me.

Oh, the won - der of your ev - er - last - ing love is high - er than the  
Oh, the won - der of your ev - er - last - ing love is deep - er than the  
Oh, the won - der of your ev - er - last - ing love is reach - ing out to

*Last time end here*

sky. 2. Your ev -  
sea. 3. Your ev -  
me.

**DISMISSAL**

Asst. Min.  
All

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE****Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**

**Children** are welcome in our worship. There is a children's worship bulletin for them. If you prefer, a nursery and/or childcare is available for children up to age 3 during all worship services.

Email: church@redeemermclean.org

**Hearing help available:** We have personal hearing amplification units available for your use. Please speak with the person at the sound board.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

**Summer Sunday Services: July 27 to August 31**  
**9 am for the contemporary service and 10:30 am for the traditional service**  
**Starting September 7:**  
**8:30 and 11 am for the traditional services and 9:45 am for the contemporary service**

Next Sunday's Scripture: Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17

**It's So Confusing**

Entering someone else's conversation halfway through can be disorienting. You don't know the context, and you're confused about the background, so you can't really make heads or tails of what's being discussed. Today's gospel reading is kind of like that experience. It's so confusing to hear Jesus talk like this!

But if we're honest with ourselves, we know our world is already full of the divisions Jesus describes. Political divisions have only deepened. Religious divisions cause people to talk over one another. We encounter racial divisions that we're afraid to talk about or even acknowledge, and economic divisions that isolate people according to status and means. Yes, our world is already full of divisions. And what about the tone of this gospel reading? Jesus' sayings are so provocative! With the kind of rhetoric being thrown around in our world today, do we need more alarming words?

When we look closely at the reading and pay attention to the context, we can get a better idea of what exactly Jesus is proposing in these inflammatory sayings. Notice the divisions he mentions here: divisions within families. In the context of the ancient world, the family was the central unit of connection and the source of your identity. The family told you who you were and how you could (or could not) operate.

It is into that kind of ordering, the foundation of identity, that Jesus brings disruption. His point is that in the kingdom of God, whether you were born into wealth or poverty, a family of prestige or one of pandemonium, you are God's beloved child. The message of God in Christ breaks up the social boxes and social games of this world, erasing the dividing lines we already set up for ourselves.

In the death and resurrection of Christ, we're all united in God's family, enjoying a new ordering of identity that breaks down what divides us.

*The flowers are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of James Ahlgren.*

CCLI License# 1850655

*Please return this bulletin to the entrance hall for recycling if you choose not to take it home.*