

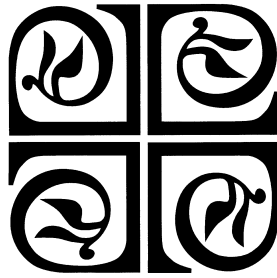
# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023  
The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



*John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace .*



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

8:30: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus", arr. Mark Hayes

11: "Pat- A- Pan" Burgundian Carol, arr. by Gary Meredith, Bell Choir

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand.*

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.

Congregation **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 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.

Congregation **Amen**

Pastor Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor Gracious God,  
Congregation **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.**

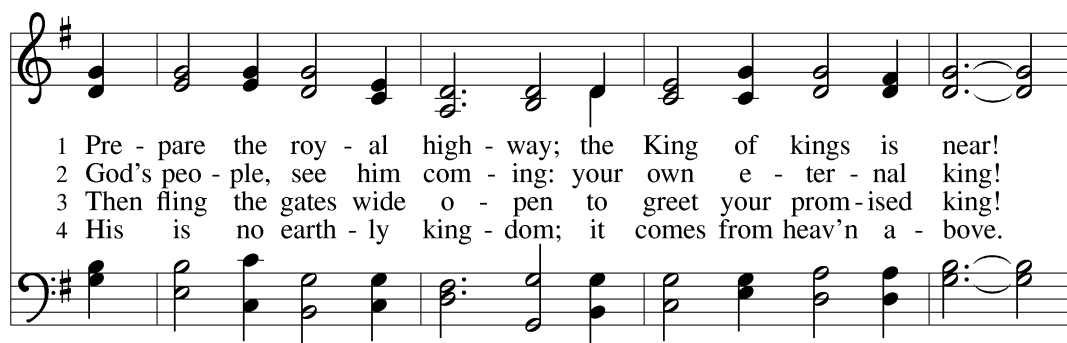
Pastor In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained servant of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation **Amen**

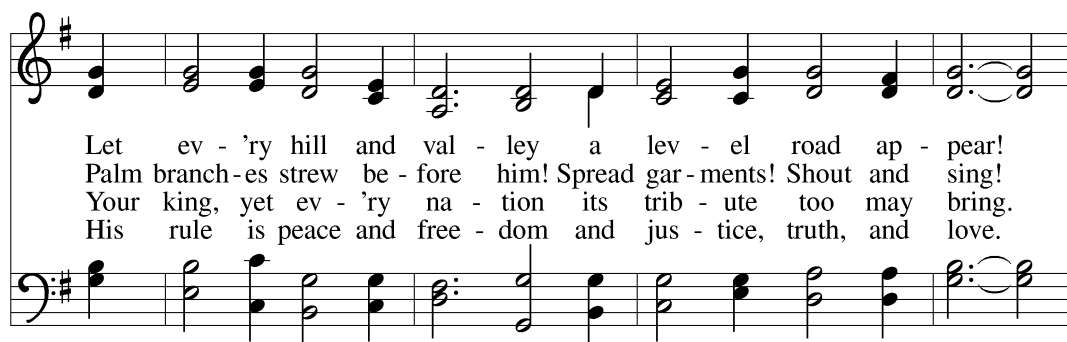
# GATHERING HYMN: PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY #264

*We invite you to turn and face the cross (as you are comfortable). Please turn to the front of the sanctuary after the cross has passed you. All sing.*

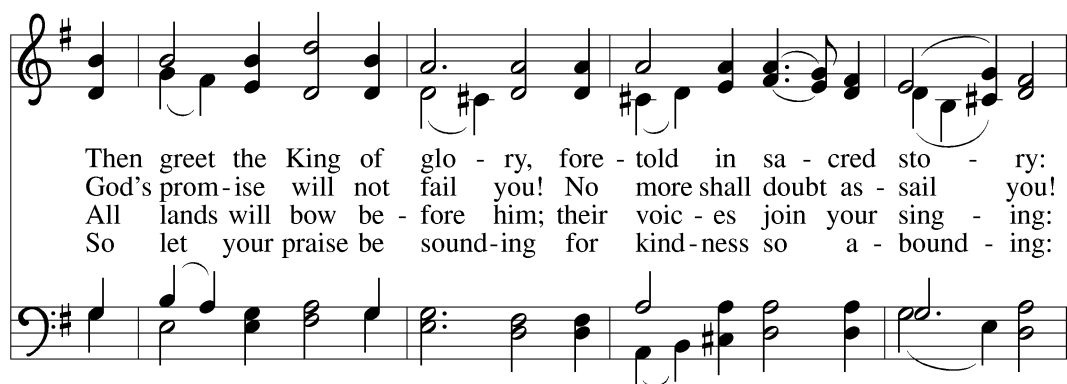
## Prepare the Royal Highway



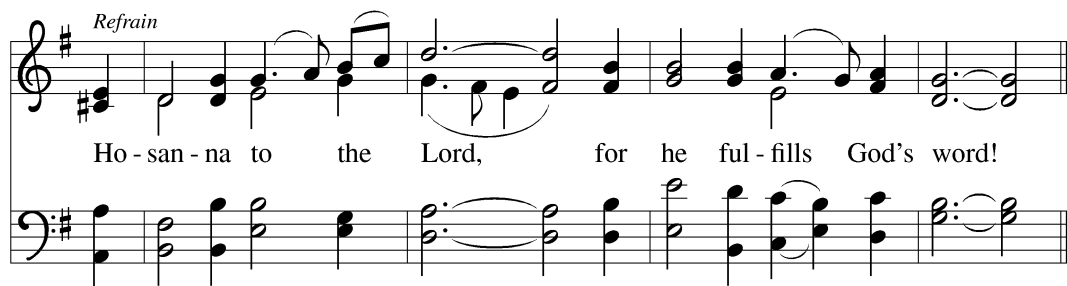
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
Congregation **And also with you.**

## KYRIE

*All sing.*

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.  
Congregation **And also with you.**  
Pastor Let us pray.  
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Congregation **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### ADVENT WELCOME

Advent Wreath will be lit by:

8:30 am - Catherine Brennan, Hannah and Hobbs Huston

11:00 am - Elizabeth and Craig Carroll, Stanley and Lily



### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

## THE WORD

### Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.*

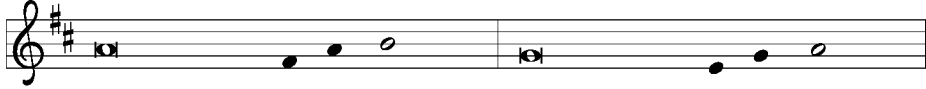
Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"  
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader	Word of God, word of life.
Congregation	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**  
*Congregation sings words in bold.*



You have been gracious to your <sup>|</sup>land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- <sup>|</sup>tune of Jacob.  
**You have forgiven the iniquity <sup>|</sup>of your people**  
**and blotted out <sup>|</sup>all their sins.**

I will listen to what the LORD <sup>|</sup>God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their <sup>|</sup>hearts to you.  
**Truly, your salvation is very near to <sup>|</sup>those who fear you,**  
**that your glory may dwell <sup>|</sup>in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness have <sup>|</sup>met together;  
righteousness and peace have <sup>|</sup>kissed each other.  
**Faithfulness shall spring up <sup>|</sup>from the earth,**  
**and righteousness shall look <sup>|</sup>down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed <sup>|</sup>grant prosperity,  
and our land will <sup>|</sup>yield its increase.  
**Righteousness shall go be- <sup>|</sup>fore the LORD**  
**and shall prepare for <sup>|</sup>God a pathway.**

**Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader	Word of God, word of life.
Congregation	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
Please stand and sing.

**The Magnificat**  
Luke 1: 46-55

*From the Holden Evening Prayer*  
*by Marty Haugen*

*All:*

1.3. My soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y

great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of

you,  
heart, You have looked with love on your  
You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through. *fine last time*  
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,  
As you prom-ised to Sar-ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

The Gospel is announced.

Pastor            The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.  
Congregation   **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

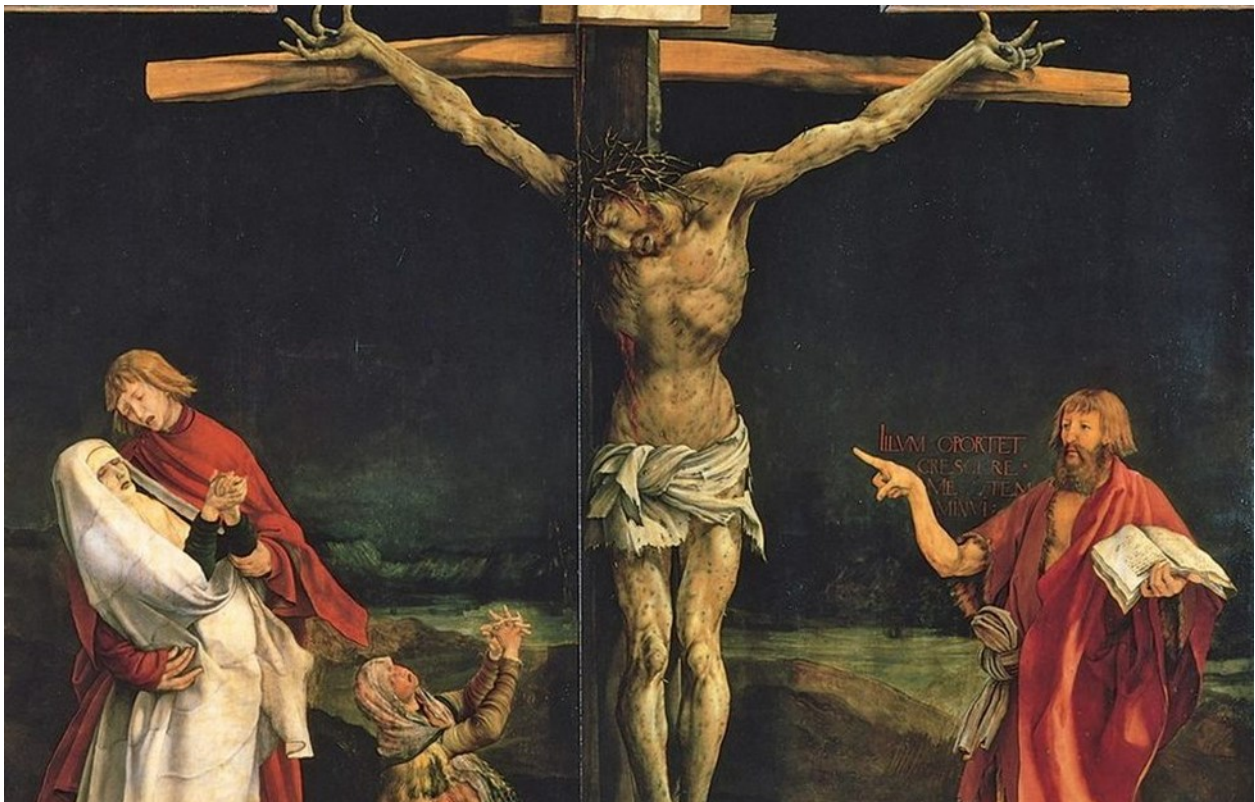
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

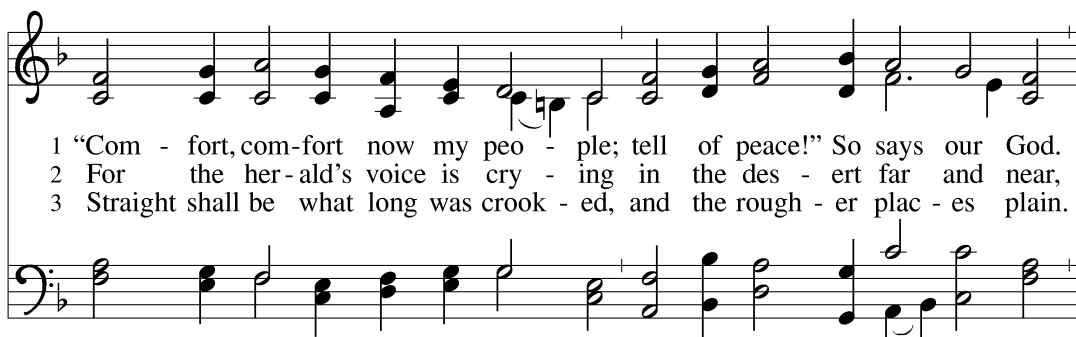
Pastor            The Gospel of the Lord.  
Congregation   **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

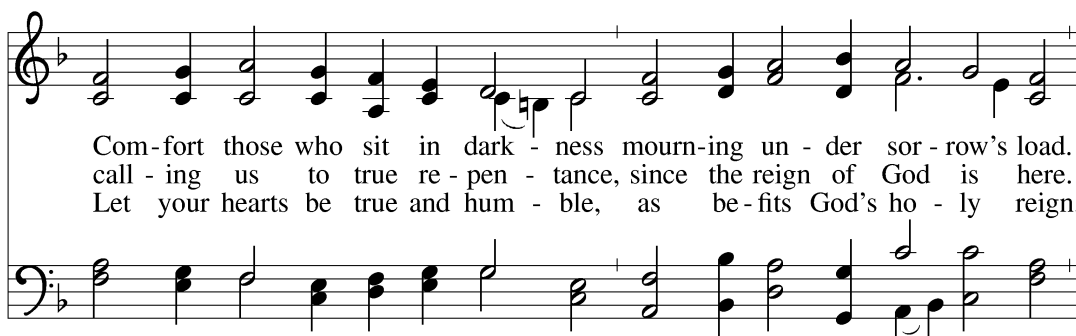
*We Point to Jesus*  
*Pastor Josh Wullenweber*




## Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

## APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor  
Congregation

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:*

Pastor                      Merciful God,  
Congregation           **receive 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.  
Congregation           **Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor                      The peace of Christ be with you always.  
Congregation           **And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please give as you are able. We appreciate those who give in-person and those who give electronically.*

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

## OFFERTORY

*"Zion hört die Wächter singen" from Cantata BMV 140, Judy Cho, violin, David Cho, cello*

## COME TO THE TABLE

### OFFERTORY SONG

*Please stand and sing.*

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



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 your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor

Congregation

Let us pray.

**God of all creation,**

**all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.**

**You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.**

**Nourish us with these gifts that we may be for the world**

**signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand.*

Pastor

Congregation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Pastor

Congregation

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor

Congregation

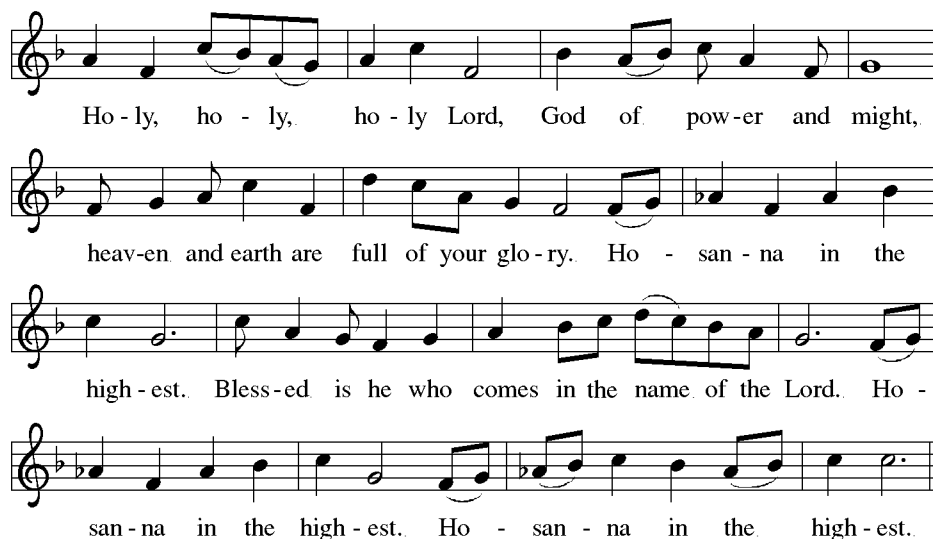
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*All sing.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

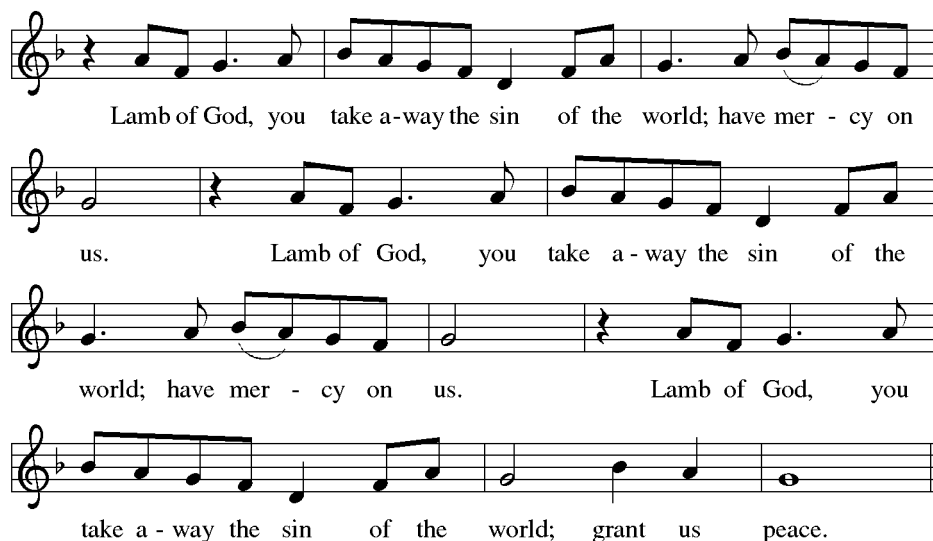
Pastor

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

Congregation

**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.**

*All sing.*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNE

### COMMUNION

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

*We gather around the communion rail either kneeling or standing to receive communion.*

*Communion will be offered by intinction.*

*For those not comfortable receiving from the pastors' hands a separate tray with preset elements will follow.*

*Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine is invited to come forward for a blessing.*

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

COMMUNION HYMN: THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS #255

All sing.

# There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the

high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.

The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the

loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now

plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

Please stand.

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
 Congregation Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Please stand and sing.*



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful-filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Congregation

**Amen**

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

Pastor

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Congregation

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: HARK, THE GLAD SOUND #239

*Please follow the cross, turning toward the cross as it passes by your pew. As the cross leads, so Christ leads us out into the community to share Christ's love.*

*All sing.*

### Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

## DISMISSAL

Pastor Go in peace, share the good news.  
Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*"The King Shall Come", arr. Michael Burkhardt*

## New Beginnings

There are lots of ways to open a story, perhaps most famously “Once upon a time . . .” Similarly, the gospel-writer Mark starts out, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,” even though his narrative lacks the birth, angelic announcements, and childhood stories Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus. And John’s gospel starts even farther back, at the beginning of creation, before skipping to Jesus’ adult years. What we can take from these varying opening narratives is that the story of Jesus does not have one beginning, but many beginnings—each a new entry point into the old, old story of God’s love breaking into the world.

Mark starts with an invitation to baptism, repentance, and forgiveness of sins. Even so, John the baptizer declares that another new start is coming, with the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus will bring. What’s more, while his baptism by John is clearly not the first event in Jesus’ life, it marks a new beginning just before he heads off to the wilderness and then on to start his public ministry.

We celebrate Advent every year at this time, but each time is a new experience, a new beginning of the church year, a new chance to anticipate grace. What has changed for you since last Advent? What has changed for your family and community? What expectations or hopes do you have for God’s presence with us? What new beginning would be a blessing?

Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, and each time we take part in confession and forgiveness we experience a fresh start. Mark opens with baptism, which is a new beginning for each of us. Remembering our baptism offers us daily assurance of the new things God is always unfolding around us. Today as we worship, we pray for the Holy Spirit to stir up something new in, with, and among us.

# 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.

**Hearing help available:** We have for your use, personal hearing amplification units available in the narthex. Please refer questions or comments to an usher.

**Church Phone:** 703-356-3346

**Email:** [Church@redeemermclean.org](mailto:Church@redeemermclean.org)

## *Sunday Services*

**8:30 and 11:00 am for the traditional service and 9:45 am for the contemporary service**

## **Christmas and New Year's Celebrations at Redeemer**

During the holiday season, Redeemer will offer several holiday services:

December 13 and 20 — **Wednesday Noonday Prayer**

Lunch at 11:30 am and Worship Noon—12:30 pm

December 13 - **Wednesday Evening Prayer**

5:30 - 6 pm on Zoom

December 15 - **Living Nativity**, Friday at 6:30 pm

and **Holiday Concert and Sing-Along** at 7:30 pm

December 20 — **Blue Christmas**, Wednesday

Dinner at 6pm and Worship at 7 pm

December 24 - **Christmas Eve** Services:

10 am — Advent Worship Service (one service only)

4 pm — Children's Christmas Pageant

6, 8, 10 pm — Traditional Candlelight Services

December 25 - **Christmas Day** Service at 10 am

December 31 - **Lessons and Carols**, Sunday at 10 am (one service only)

**New Year's Eve** Service at 5 pm

**All are welcome!**

Next Sunday's Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

Today we, the Redeemer Congregation, welcome into baptized membership:

Mabel Ann Meagher, her parents are Monica Augustenborg and Patrick Meagher,

and sponsors are Amanda Rodriguez and Jorgen Augustenborg.

We pray God's richest blessings on Mabel Ann as she and her parents continue to grow in faith.

*The flowers are given to the glory of God.*

*Today we are using Setting 2 from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.*

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