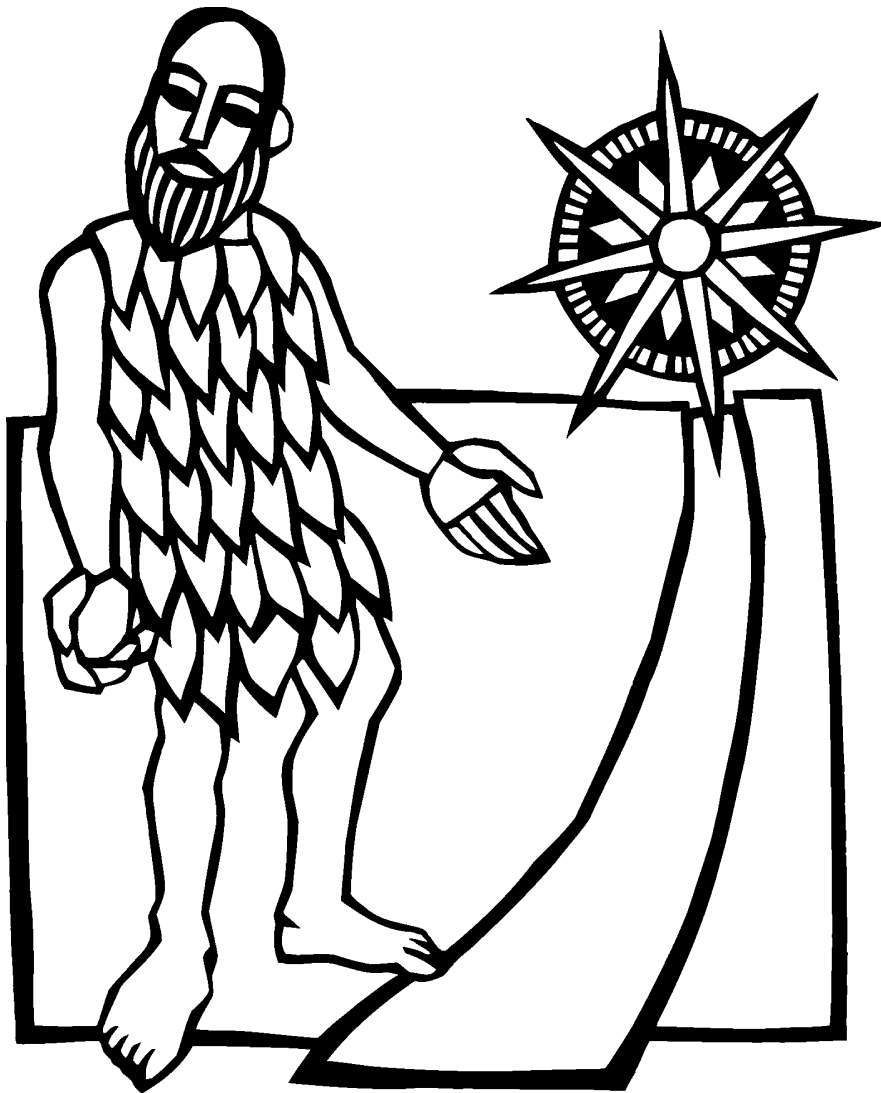


+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am *December 14, 2025*

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



A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.



+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

PRELUDE

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Let us prepare our hearts
 as we await the coming of our Lord.

**All Let us watch for the one who heard our cries
 and shouldered the suffering of our world.**

Pastor Let us anticipate the coming of Christ's eternal world
 with wholeness, reconciliation and plenty for all.

**All Let us wait in expectation for the day
 when God's glory is revealed in all its fullness.**

GATHERING SONG
All sing.

Come And See

Lenny LeBlanc

1. Come and see the glo - ry of the Lord,
2. Come and give thanks un - to the Lord.

Come, be - hold the Lamb.
Come, be - hold the Lamb.

Come and see the mer - cy of the King,
Come and sing the prais - es of the King,

Bow - ing down - be - fore Him.
Bow - ing down - be - fore Him.

Him. For He is Lord a - bove the heav - ens,
Lord in all the earth. Lord of all the an - gels,
Wor - thy to be served. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord.

Confession of Sin

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

All Amen.

Pastor Gracious God,

All have mercy on us.

**We confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

Pastor God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

+ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

All Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor 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 walk in your way; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

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



All sing. 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

+ THE WORD +

Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.
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.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say 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."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then 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;
⁷the 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.

⁸A 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.
⁹No 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.
¹⁰And 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.

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

Reading: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Please stand and sing. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this.

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

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

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

¹¹Truly 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."

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

SERMON

The Kingdom in Bloom
Pastor Sharon Core

Please stand and sing.

Emmanuel

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of four lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics and a series of chords written above the notes. The lyrics are: "Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, his name is called Em - man - u - el; God with us, re - vealed in us; his name is called Em - man - u - el." The chords are: C, C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B \flat for the first line; A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, G/B, C for the second line; C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B \flat for the third line; and A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, F/C, C for the fourth line. The melody is simple, using quarter and half notes, with a final half note and a whole note on the last line.

C C/E F G G⁷ C C/B \flat
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

A A/C \sharp Dm G⁷ G/B C
his name is called Em - man - u - el;

C/E F G G⁷ C C/B \flat
God with us, re - vealed in us;

A A/C \sharp Dm G⁷ F/C C
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

Text and music: Bob McGee
Text and music © 1976 C. A. Music

APOSTLES' CREED

Asst. Min. With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

All 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.

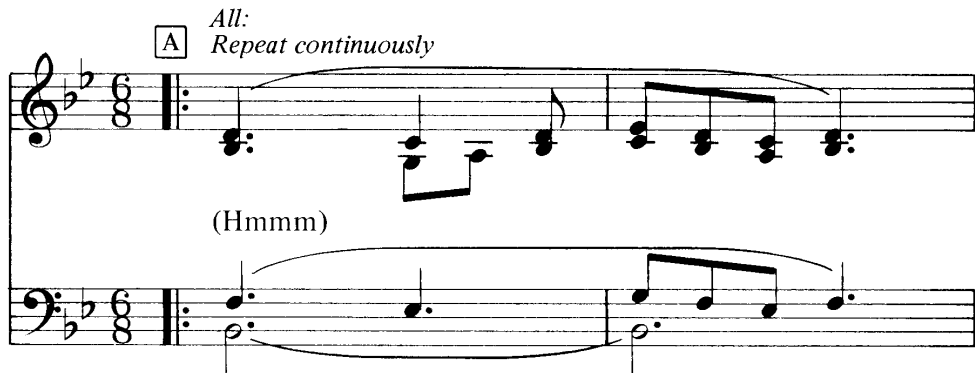
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

LITANY AND PRAYER

From the Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen


All sing sections A and B. The cantor will sing the Leader parts.

A *All:
Repeat continuously*



(Hmmm)

B



God — of mer - cy, hold us in love.



1. In peace, in peace, we pray_ to you:



2. For peace and sal-va-tion, we pray to you:



3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:
4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:
6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish - es all of cre - a - tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer-cy:



Help us, com-fort us, all of our days:



Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

PRAYER

Pastor

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

OFFERTORY SONG

"We Will See Him" by Robert Fergusson

OFFERTORY

Please stand and sing.

We are an offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our

lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.

All Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
Through this meal,
satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
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. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

*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.

Broken for Me

Refrain



Bro - ken for me, bro - ken for you;



the bod - y of Je - sus bro - ken for you.



1 He of - fered his bod - y, he poured out his soul;



2 Come to my ta - ble and with me dine;



3 This is my bod - y giv - en for you;



4 This is my blood . . . I shed for you;

Refrain



Je - sus was bro - ken that we might be whole.



eat of my bread . . . and drink of my wine.



eat it, re - mem - b'ring I died for you.



for your for - give - ness, mak - ing you new.

Final refrain



Bro - ken for me, bro - ken for you;



the bod - y of Je - sus bro - ken for you.

Text: Janet Lunt

Music: BROKEN FOR ME, Janet Lunt

Please stand.

Pastor

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

All

Amen.

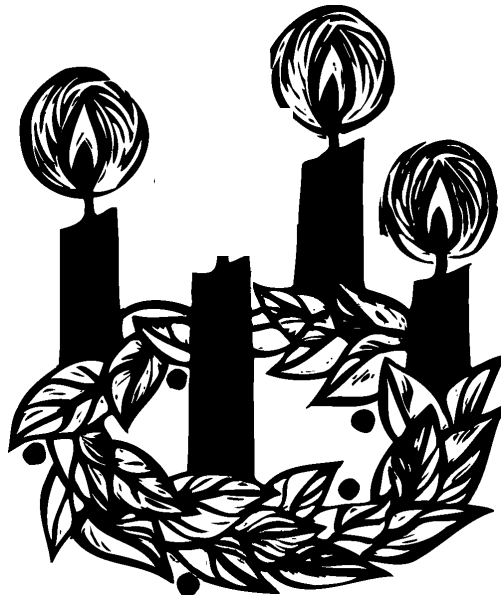
PRAYER

Asst. Min.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day
when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make
known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All

Amen.



+ THE SENDING +

BENEDICTION

Pastor

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in
harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

All

Amen.

Pastor

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you
may abound in love by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All

Amen.

Pastor

The God of grace + bless you now and forever.

All

Amen.

SENDING SONG
All sing.

Shout to the North

Luke 13:29



1. Men of faith, rise up and sing of the
 (2. Rise up,) wo - men of the truth, stand and
 (3. Rise up,) church with bro - ken wings, fill this



great and glo - rious King. You are strong when you feel
 sing to bro - ken hearts who can know the heal - ing
 place with songs a - gain of our God who reigns on



weak, in your bro - ken - ness com - plete.
 pow'r of our awe - some King of love.
 high. By His grace a - gain we'll fly.



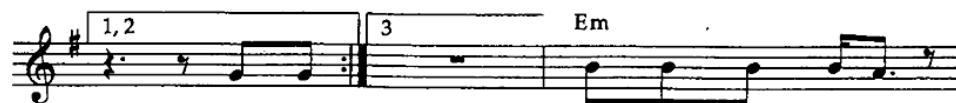
Shout to the north and the south;



sing to the east and the west. Je - sus is



Sav - ior to all, Lord of heav - en and earth.



2. Rise up,
3. Rise up,

We've been through fire;



we've been through rain;

we've been re - fined by the



pow'r of His name. We've fall-en deep-er in love with You.

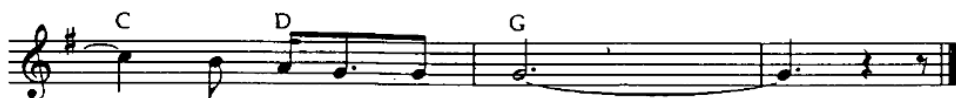


You've burned the truth on our lips.



Lord of heav-en and earth,

Lord



of heav-en and earth.

DISMISSAL

Asst. Min. Go in peace. Share the good news.

All 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

Sunday Services:

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

Next Sunday's Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas and New Year's Celebrations at Redeemer

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

December 17—**Blue Christmas**

Dinner at 6 pm and Worship at 7 pm

December 19— **Living Nativity** at 6 pm

and **Holiday Concert** at 7:30 pm

December 24—**Christmas Eve** Services:

4 pm—Family-Friendly Service

6 and 8 pm—Traditional Candlelight Services

December 25—**Christmas Day** Service at 10 am (one service only)

December 28—**Lessons and Carols** at 10 am

All are welcome!

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

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