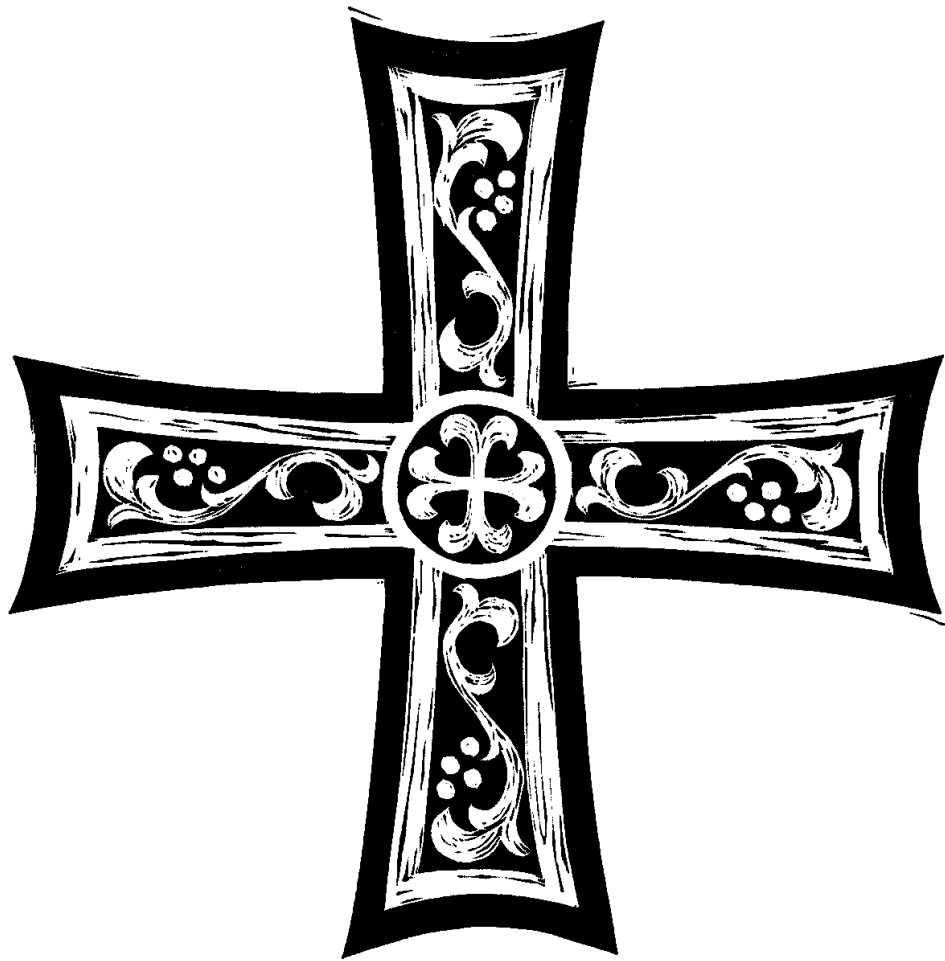


# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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

Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2025

The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



*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.*



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*"Comfort, Comfort Now My People" - Paul Manz*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand.*

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
 Congregation **Amen.**

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

Congregation **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor Long-expected God,  
 Congregation **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.

Congregation **Amen.**

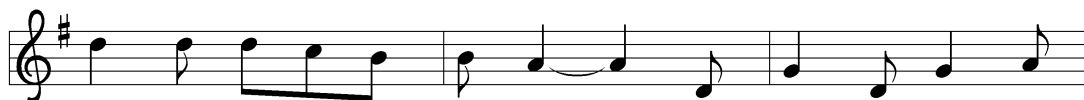
# GATHERING HYMN: AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN #242

*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.*

## Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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## 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 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.

Congregation

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

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

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.*

<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 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.

<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 unstopped;  
<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;  
<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.

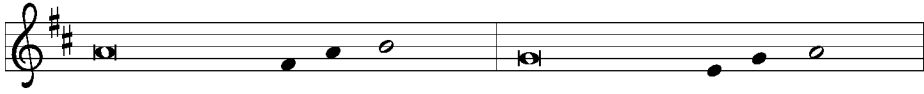
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<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.

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

## Psalm 146:5-10

*Congregation sings words in bold.*



<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**  
**who keeps promis- | es forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the | captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;**  
**the LORD | loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares | for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall | reign forever,**  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

## Reading: James 5:7-10

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

<sup>7</sup>Be 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. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As 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.
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, You have looked with love on your  
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

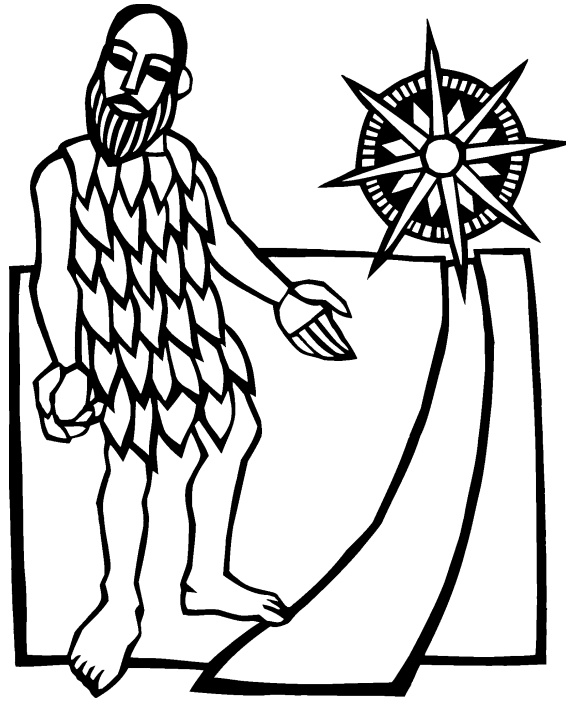
*fine last time*  
ser-vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.

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  
Congregation

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.  
**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.*

<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, the lepers 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."

Pastor  
Congregation

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

**SERMON**

*The Kingdom in Bloom*  
*Pastor Sharon Core*



## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## APOSTLES' CREED

Asst. Min.  
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:*

Asst. Min.                      God of grace,  
Congregation                **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.  
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. 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

*'Long ago, prophets knew' - melody by Piaa Cantiones, arr. by Malcolm Archer*

## COME TO THE TABLE

**OFFERTORY SONG**  
*Please stand and sing.*

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Asst. Min.  
Congregation

Let us pray.  
**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.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

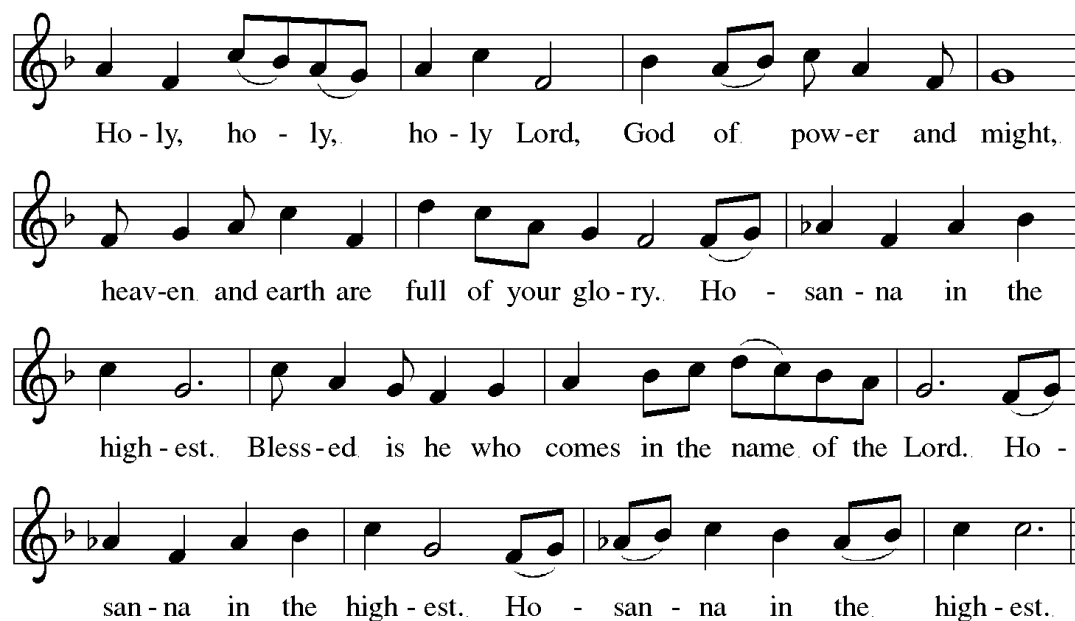
Pastor                The Lord be with you.  
Congregation      **And also with you.**

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

Pastor                Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
Congregation      **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.*



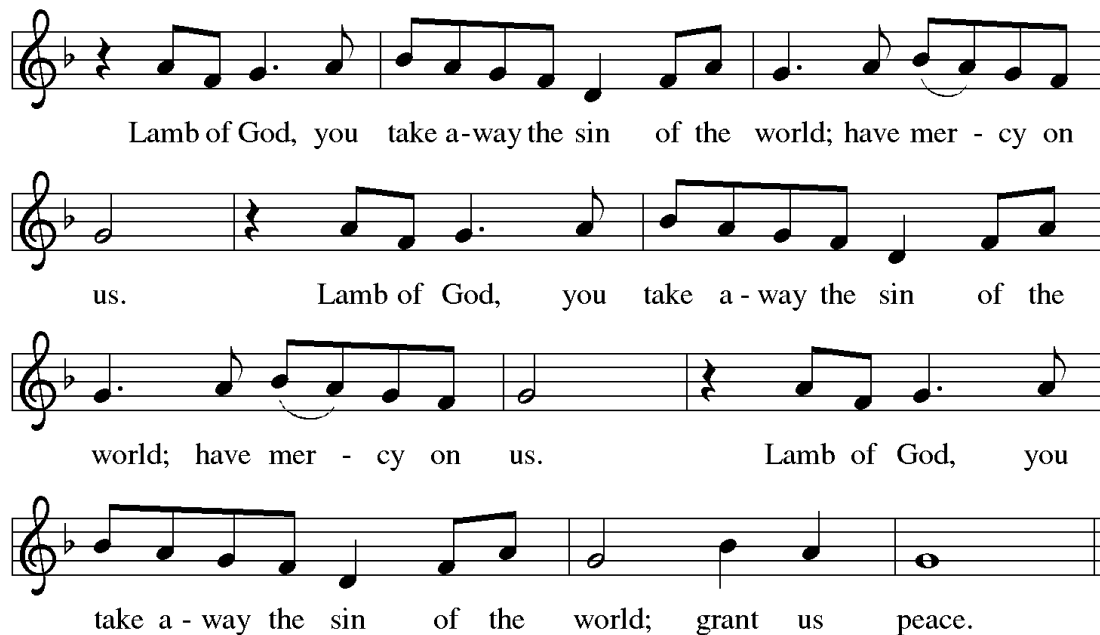
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.***

*Communion will be offered by intinction.*

*For those not comfortable receiving from those who are distributing the elements, a separate tray 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.*

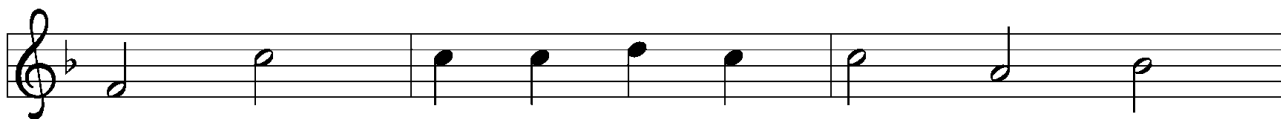
*You are an important part of our faith community.*

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

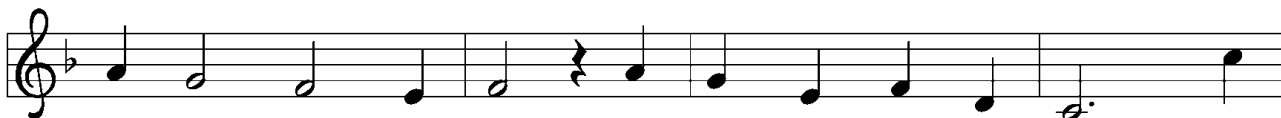
## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



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.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

*Please stand.*

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

### POST-COMMUNION 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.  
 Congregation **Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

Pastor

Congregation

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

## 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

Asst. Min.  
Congregation

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

## POSTLUDE

*“The King Shall Come” - Michael Burkhardt*

## 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 personal hearing amplification units available for your use. Please speak with the person at the sound board.

**Church Phone: 703-356-3346**  
**Email: [church@redeemermclean.org](mailto:church@redeemermclean.org)**

### *Sunday Services:*

**8:30 and 11 am for 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.*

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

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