

+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am December 17, 2023

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



“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Seminarian Advent is the season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. All this we find in the presence of God who is here among us, who lives in us, surrounds us, and holds us in the palm of his hand.

All We embrace God's presence, at this moment, and in this place.

Seminarian In this and every season God brings people together.

All We embrace God's beloved among us.

Seminarian In this and every season we celebrate life that is born where darkness reigned, we celebrate the gift of love that overcame fear forevermore.

All We embrace the one who brings life.

Seminarian In this and every season God is with us.

All Lord, speak to us this day! Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Please stand and sing.

Come And See

Lenny LeBlanc

F C/E B \flat 2/D F/C

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

B \flat 2 C7 F B \flat /C

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

F C/E A7 A/C# Dm Dm/C

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

B \flat B \flat /C C7 1. F B \flat /C

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

2,3. F C C/E F

Him. For He is Lord a - bove the heav - ens,

B \flat F C C/E F

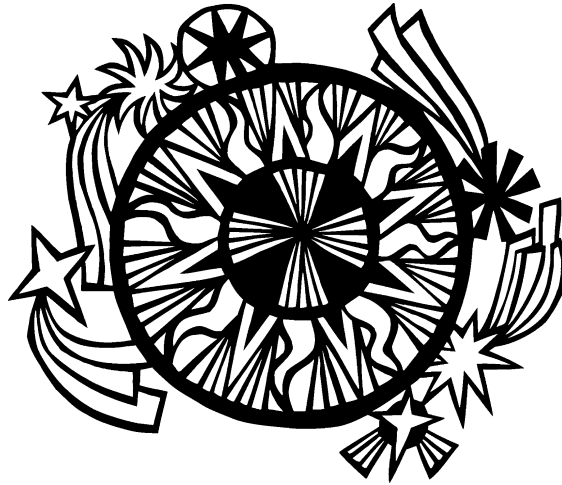
Lord in all the earth. Lord of all the an - gels,

B \flat Asus A Gm B \flat

Wor - thy to be served. Al - le -

F/C C/E Gm B \flat F/C D.C. al Fine C/E Final ending F

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord.



CONFESSION

Seminarian Lord of the universe, here in this place we seek your presence.
We long for wisdom, inspiration and peace.

All Come, Holy Spirit, shine into our souls!

Seminarian Lord of all people, you call us your sons and daughters; you know us and love us. We long to know where you might lead us.

All Come, Holy Spirit, let your light shine on our way!

Seminarian Spirit of truth, pour your light into our souls and speak to us in this moment of silence.

Sacred Silence

Pastor Lord, we are still caught in Adam's ways of sin and death. Together we confess:

**All We acknowledge that we have rebelled against you in many ways,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
Help us embrace and extend your love
through our thoughts, words, and deeds.
You make everything new, including us.**

Pastor Jesus Christ, who conquered sin and death, is here among us. In him we begin anew every day, living in the glorious freedom of the children of God. In the tender compassion of our God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit your sins are forgiven. May the blessings of God rest upon us all.

All Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

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. *Refrain* Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ADVENT WELCOME

The Advent Wreath will be lit by
Nathan, Lara, Anna, and Julia Paukovits



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.

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Reading: Luke 1:46b-55

And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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



Ancient Words

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Words and Music by
Lynn DeShazo*

Please stand and sing.

VERSE 1

$\text{♩} = 63$

E B E A B

1. Ho ly - words long pre - served for our walk in this world; They re - sound

5 with God's own heart, O, let the an - cient words im - part;

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

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

SERMON

Mary's Song Pastor Sandy Kessinger

SONG OF THE DAY

Please stand and sing.

Shine On Us

Words and Music by
Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith

$\text{♩} = 72$

C F/C C Em/G F2 G/B C

1 Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us.
2 Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.
3 Lord, let Your love, love with no end come o - ver us.

5 F/C C Em/G F2 G/B C C/E

Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us That
Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us That
Lord, let Your love, love with no end come o - ver us That

9 F G/B C C/E F G/B C_{sus} C C/E F E/G#

we may be saved, that we may have life; To find our way in the dark - est

14 Am F C/G G7 C 1, 2

night, Let Your light shine on us.
night, Let Your grace fall on us.
night, Let Your love come o - ver

17 Am Am/G F C/G G7 C

us, let Your light shine on us.

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.**

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. Merciful God,
All 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.
All Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Pastor 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."
Please sit.*

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.

OFFERING MUSIC

"We Will See Him" by Robert Fergusson



SONG OF OFFERING
Please stand and sing.

PSALMODY, READINGS AND CANTICLES
From the Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen

Psalm 141

All:

All sing.

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
fore you, the lift - ing up of my
hands as an of - fer - ing to you. _____

Leader or Group One:

Cantor sings.

_____ O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two:

All sing.

O God, I

Cantor sings.

All sing.

now; O hear my voice when I
call to you, come to me now; O

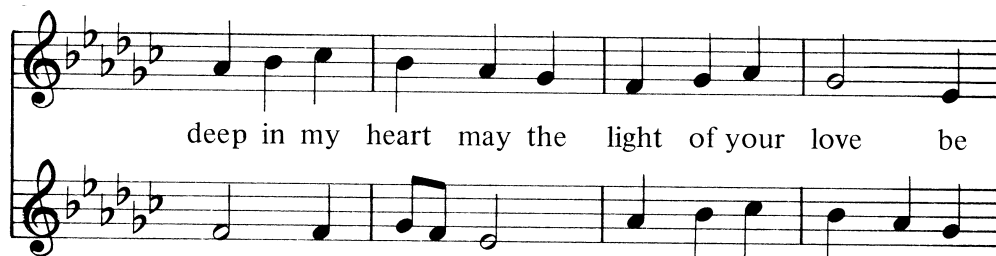
cry to you. ————— Let my prayer rise
hear my voice when I cry to you.

up like in cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an


you. ————— Keep watch with - in me, God;
of-fer-ing to you. Keep

Cantor sings.

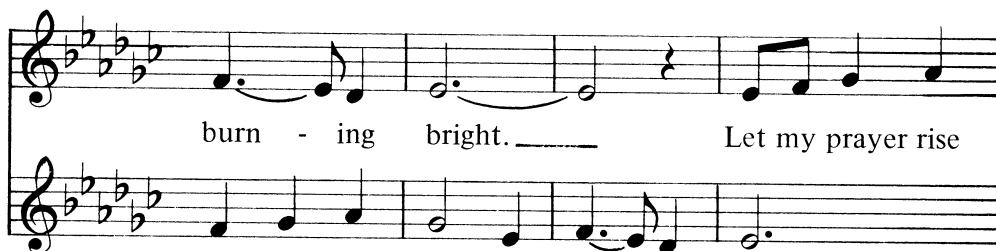


deep in my heart may the light of your love be

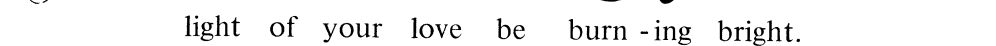
All sing.



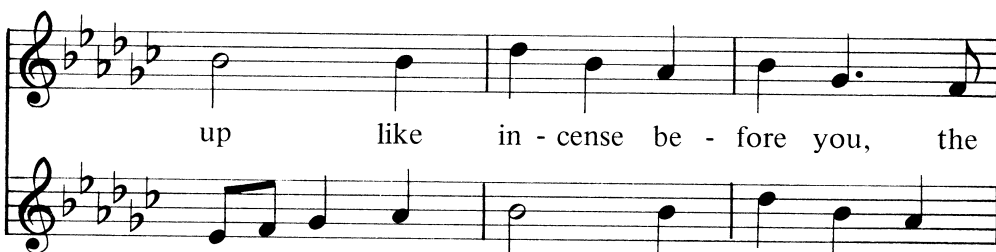
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the



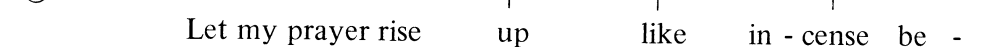
burn - ing bright. _____ Let my prayer rise



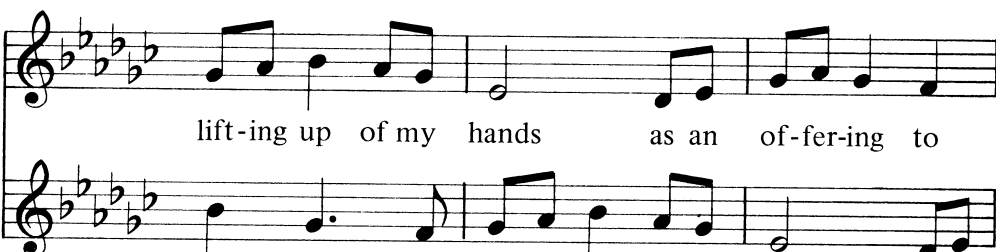
light of your love be burn - ing bright.



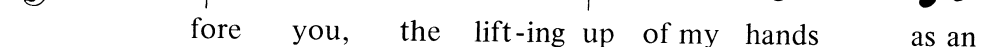
up like in - cense be - fore you, the



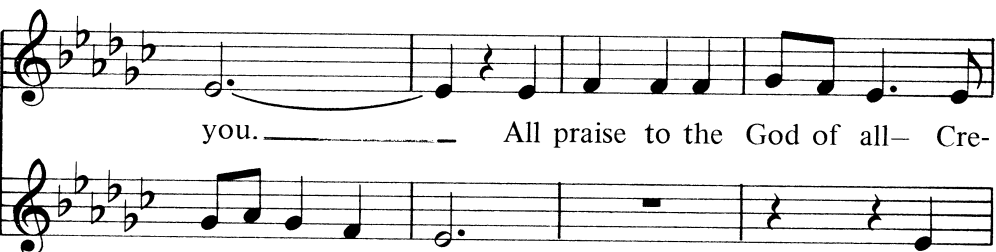
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -



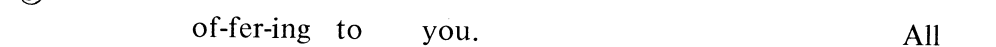
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to



fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an



you. _____ All praise to the God of all - Cre-

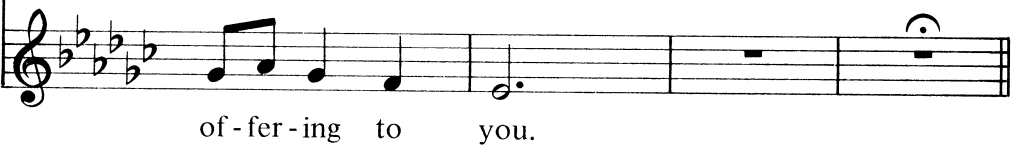
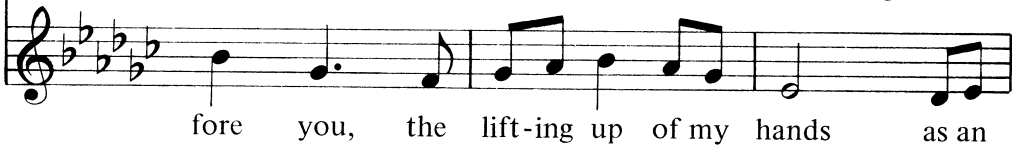
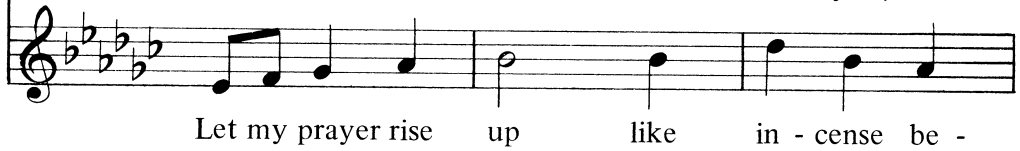
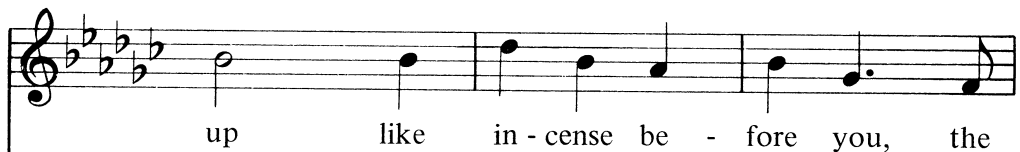
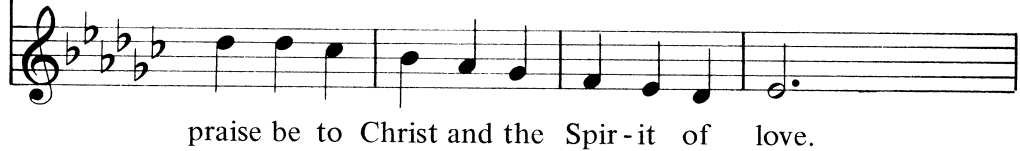
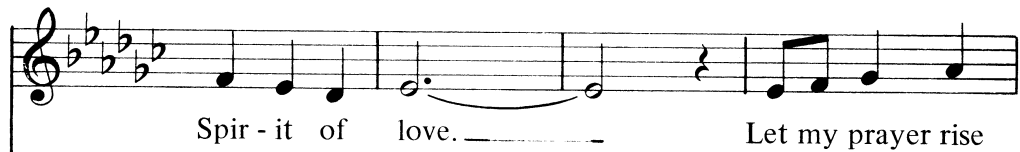
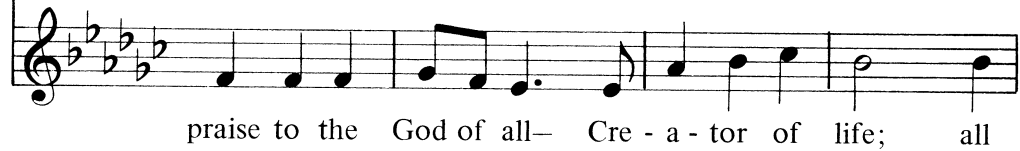


of - fer - ing to you. All

Cantor sings.



All sing.



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray.

All **God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

MEAL

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.**

Pastor Our souls magnify you, O Lord, and our spirits rejoice in you, for you are our Savior. In every generation, you have shown the lowly your favor and have blessed the poor in their need. When the time had come, you looked with favor on Mary in her lowliness and by the power of your Holy Spirit she gave birth to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

With all generations, we call you blessed, and with Mary and Joseph we rejoice in your saving help. Through them, through us, and through your whole Church you have done great things by your might. And so with the saints, with angels and archangels, with all your people on earth and in heaven, we proclaim the holiness of your name:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. You are an important part of our faith community. For those taking Holy Communion: Pastor will give verbal instructions on how Holy Communion will be distributed.

COMMUNION SONG

All sing.

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,



Last time to coda ⊕

where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.



3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be



un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

D.C. (stanza 4) al coda

loved as to love with all my soul.

♩ *Coda*

ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

Text: Sebastian Temple
 Music: PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS, Sebastian Temple
 Text and music © 1967 OCP Publications

TABLE BLESSING

Please stand.

Pastor May this bread of life and cup of salvation fill you with the hope, peace, joy, and love that can only come from Christ Jesus our Lord.

All **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.
 Generous God,
 with this bread and cup you have revealed your glory
 for all people to see.
 Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
 your good news of liberation and release,
 brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

All **Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor The God of peace bless you,
 the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
 and the anointing of the Holy Spirit + remain upon you
 now and forever.

All **Amen.**

SENDING SONG
All sing.

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

DISMISSAL

Asst. Minister
All

Go in peace. Share Christ's Love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Patterns of Grace

People who sew often use patterns to guide their creations. To make a skirt, suit, or quilt of a certain size, one cuts out the pattern, pins it to fabric, and then cuts along the pattern to get pieces of cloth that are the right sizes and shapes to be sewn together.

In today's gospel reading we find a pattern that is repeated throughout the biblical narrative: a person of faith does something that draws the attention of others, which gives them an opportunity to share the story of their faith. The prophets often performed public actions that led to them speaking the word of the Lord. It is not surprising that the conspicuous work of John the Baptist at the Jordan River caused the priests and Levites to wonder if he was "the prophet."

Early in the Gospel of John we are told that John the Baptist was a witness who would testify to the light that is Jesus. John's answer to the religious leaders' queries continues with the language of testimony, as he confesses that he is not the Messiah. We see the pattern at work here: John's actions are a proclamation all their own, but those actions draw others' attention, and that gives him an opportunity to testify, to share his story of God's way.

This pattern keeps going with us today as God continues to stitch grace into the world. Whose actions of faith have drawn your attention? How have their stories of faith been a comfort or challenge to you? Our actions need not be as ambitious as baptizing a whole community in the river for people to take notice. Our following the way of Jesus will draw people's attention, and their curiosity then gives us an opportunity to testify, to share our stories of transformation, faith, hope, and love.

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

Next Sunday's Scripture:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-28

Christmas and New Year's Celebrations at Redeemer

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

December 20 — **Wednesday Noonday Prayer**
Lunch at 11:30 am and Worship Noon — 12:30 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!

*The flowers are given to the glory of God
And in celebration of Anna's birthday and Julia's baptism anniversary
by Lara and Nate Paukovits
And in celebration of the 55th wedding anniversary of Bob and Joyce Clarke.*

*Call to Worship and Creed were written by Andreas Wagner
Great Thanksgiving was written by Mark Rowland*

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