

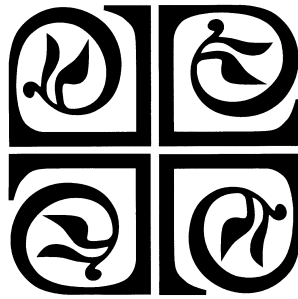
# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023  
The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



*“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.*



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People- arr. Paul Manz*

### 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 the power of the 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: 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 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.  
Congregation **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### ADVENT WELCOME

Advent Wreath will be lit by:

8:30 am - Jamie, Samantha, Abigail, and Elizabeth Brainard

11:00 am - Tim, Laura, and Ben Stoessel



### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

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.

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

## THE WORD

### Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

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

**SONG**  
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

*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.

## 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.*

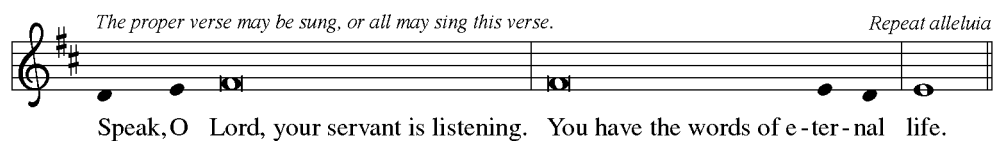
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

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.
Congregation	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please stand and sing.*



Music: Bob Moore, b. 1962  
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

The Gospel is announced.

Pastor	The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
Congregation	<b>Glory to you, O Lord.</b>

## 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.
Congregation	<b>Praise to you, O Christ.</b>

## SERMON

*Mary's Song*  
*Pastor Sandy Kessinger*

# HYMN OF THE DAY: CANTICLE OF THE TURNING #723

*Please stand and 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.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

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## APOSTLES' CREED

Seminarian  
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:*

Seminarian      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

*"Long Ago, Prophets Knew" Melody: Piae Cantiones arr. by Malcolm Archer*

## 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.**

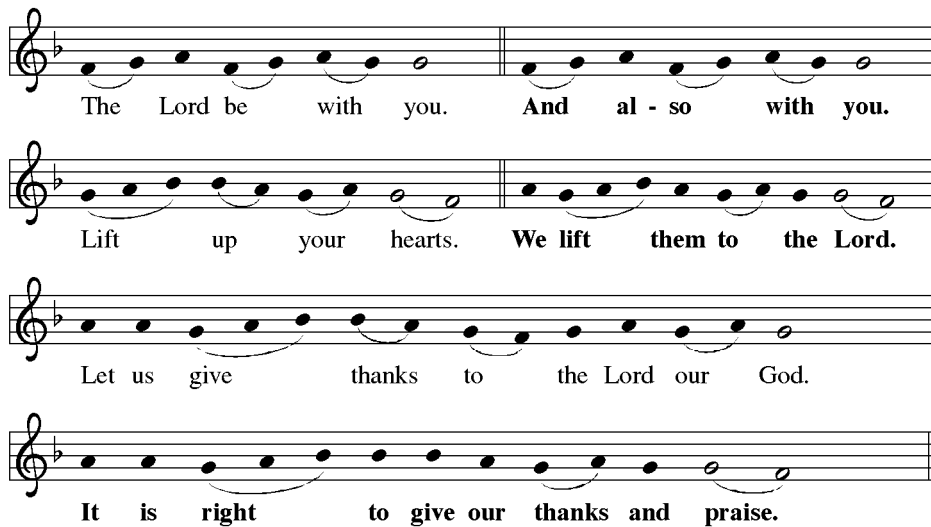
**You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.**

**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 and sing words in bold.*



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
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

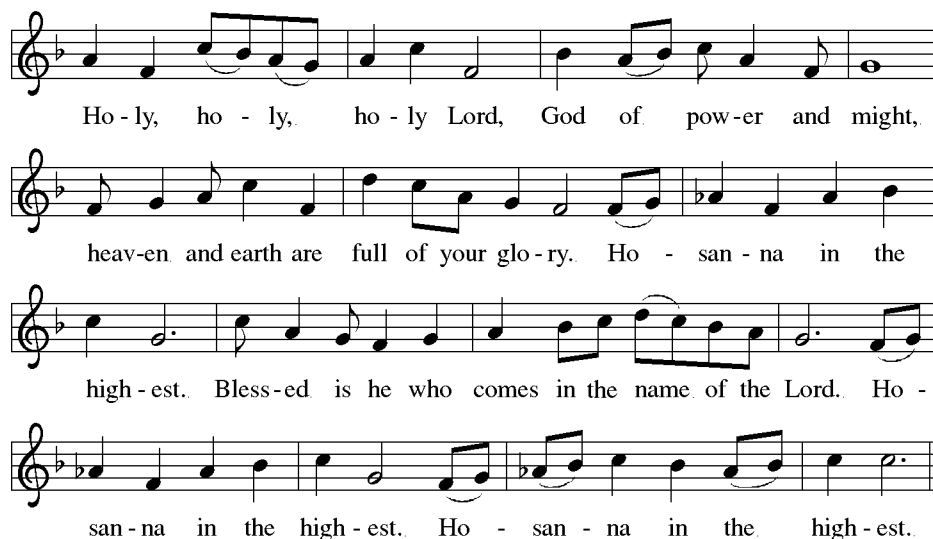
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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

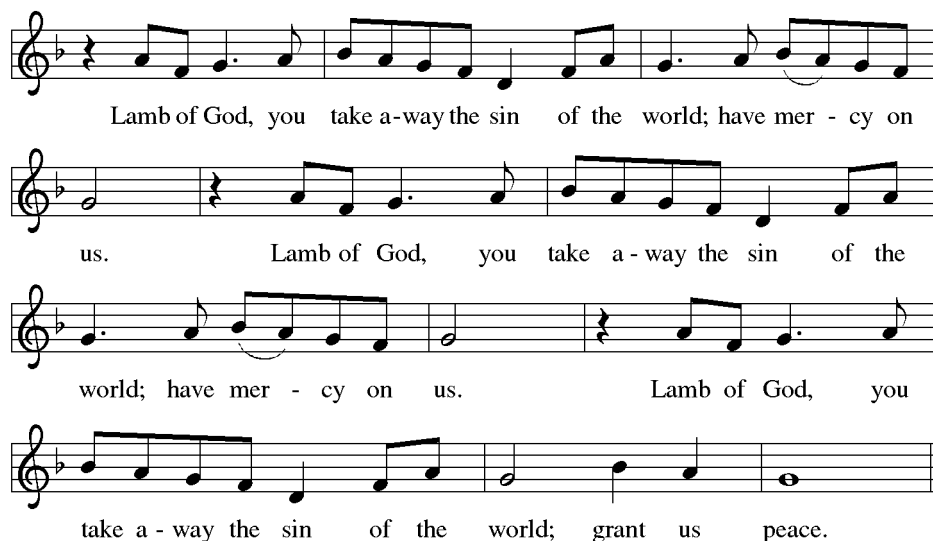
Pastor

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 are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

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

COMMUNION HYMN: BE THOU MY VISION #793

All sing.

## Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

*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

Seminarian	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	<b>Amen.</b>

## 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	<b>Amen.</b>

# SENDING HYMN: JOY TO THE WORLD #269

*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.*

## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor  
Congregation

Go in peace, share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Lift Up Your Heads" - arr. Gilbert Martin*

### 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](mailto:Church@redeemermclean.org)**

## *Sunday Services*

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

Next Sunday's Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

## **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.*

*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.*