

+ Contemporary Worship +  
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

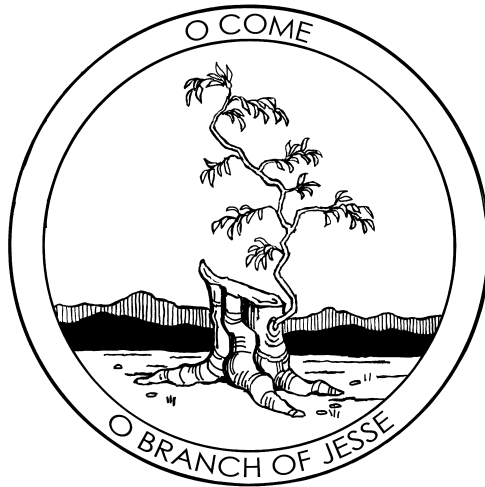
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9:45 am December 7, 2025

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



*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*



## **+ 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming  
nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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

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 11:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

### **Reading: Romans 15:4-13**

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; <sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

*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 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

**SERMON**

*The Way Forward*  
Pastor Sharon Core

*Please stand and sing.*

## For by Grace

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is

not your own do - ing; it is the gift of God.

Sal - va - tion, sal - va - tion,

sal - va - tion, sal - va - tion:

it is the gift of God.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is

not your own do - ing; it is the gift of God.

Text: Ephesians 2:8

Music: FOR BY GRACE, Thomas Ian Nicholas

Music © 1998 Thomas Ian Nicholas, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## 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.

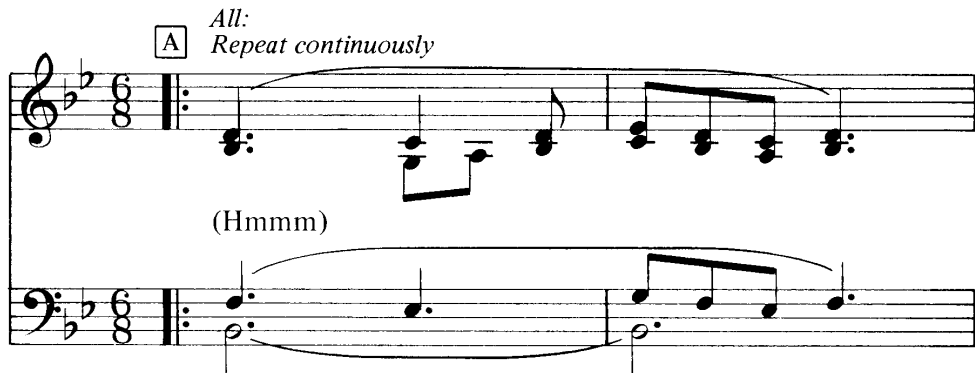
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## 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

*"This Is Amazing Grace" by Phil Wickham*

#### 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.*

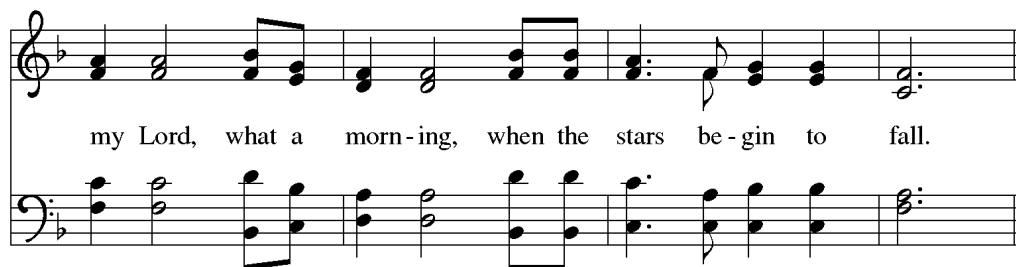
**COMMUNION SONG**  
*All sing.*

## My Lord, What a Morning


*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

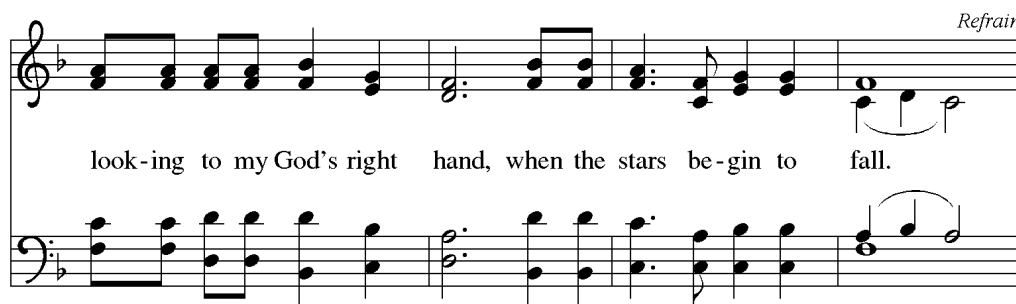


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

***Please stand.***

Pastor

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

**All**

**Amen.**

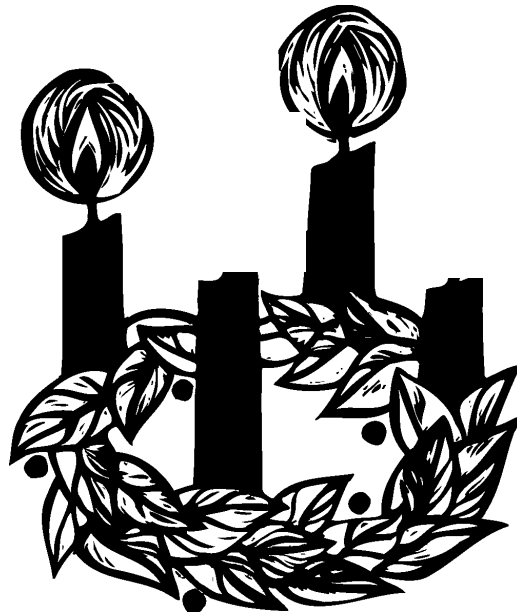
**PRAYER**

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.*

# The River Is Here

*Revelation 22:1*

$\text{♩} = 120$  *With energy*  
 E (no3) E (no3)

1. Down the moun - tain the riv - er flows, and it  
 (2.) riv - er of God is teem-ing with life;

brings re - fresh - ing wher - ev - er it goes.  
 all who touch it can be re - vived, and

Through the val - leys and o - ver the fields the  
 those who lin - ger on this riv - er's shore will

riv - er of God sets our feet a - danc - ing; the

riv - er of God fills our hearts with cheer. The

riv - er of God fills our mouths with laugh - ter, and  
 we re - joice for the riv - er is here.  
 2. The 3. Up  
 to the moun - tain we love to go to find the pres - ence  
 of the Lord. A - long the banks of the riv - er we run; we  
 dance with laugh - ter giv - ing praise to the Son. The  
 CODA  
 riv - er is here, and we re - joice for the riv - er is here.

WORDS and MUSIC: Andy Park

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# **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@redeermclemclean.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 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

### Turning and Mending (Again)

Being on the receiving end of sharp language can be heartbreaking. Indeed, words can wound—or worse. John the Baptizer, a key figure in our Advent narratives, finds himself at odds with other religious leaders of the time, and uses the tool he has (language) to call attention to their broken relationship. It's unclear what exactly led to this prickly, pointed exchange between John and the Pharisees and Sadducees, but there is a growing chasm between them.

"Prepare the way of the Lord," John cries out in the wilderness, echoing the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah cried out in his own day centuries prior, testifying to God's desire to mend the world (though the world seemed to be at an end). Perhaps John repeats Isaiah's plea in order to remind the people of his day of God's intent for all things: for the world to be mended, healed, made right; for the reign of heaven to be revealed on earth, here and now. Often, however, mending brokenness requires honesty first about the wounds that have been inflicted and the death that has been wrought. With John's painful honesty, his strained relationship with other leaders of his time takes a step toward healing, toward justice, so that a new beginning might take hold. This is a starting point, as difficult as it may be.

Every Advent, as the church year begins again, we hear the familiar call: Repent. Turn back to God. Repentance is no easy thing, but thankfully, God draws us back to this imperative, year after year, day after day, hour after hour. With infinite mercy, once again God invites us to turn toward healing, toward justice, toward the righting of the world, one relationship at a time.

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

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