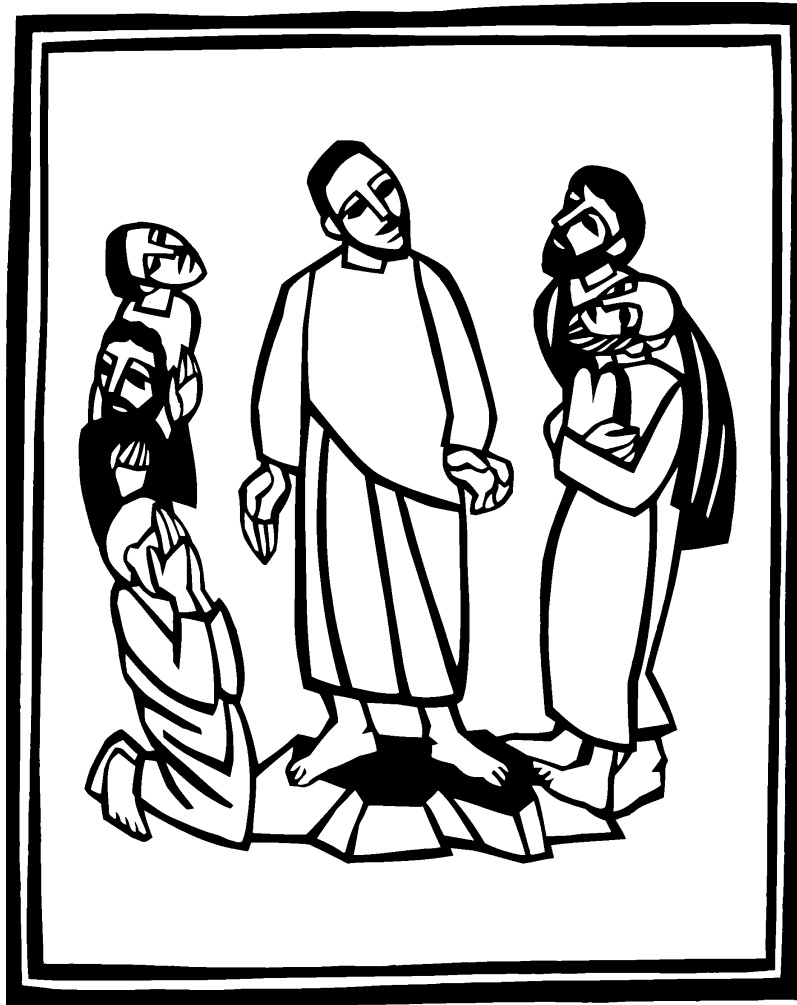


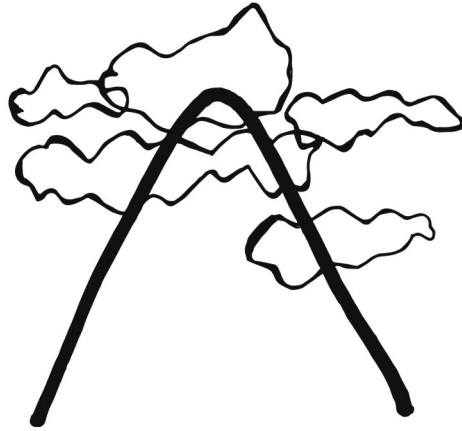
# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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

Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 15, 2026  
The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



*Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.*



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*Mediation on "Abide with Me" - Paul Fey*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand.*

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor Mighty God, lover of justice,  
Congregation **you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.  
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.  
We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.  
Turn us to seek your face.  
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

Pastor The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.

Congregation **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN: COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE #804

*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.*

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890  
Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*All sing.*



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor

The Lord be with you.

Congregation

**And also with you.**

Pastor

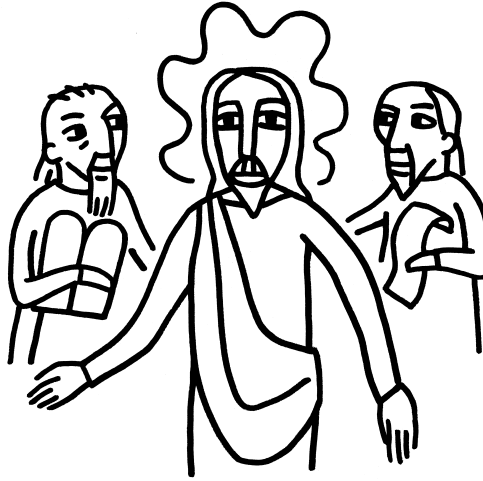
Let us pray.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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



## THE WORD

### Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

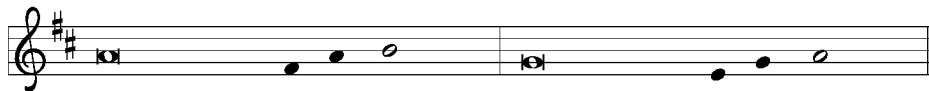
<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

## Psalm 2

*Congregation sings words in bold.*



- <sup>1</sup> Why are the nations | in an uproar?  
Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?
- <sup>2</sup> **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes | plot together,  
against the LORD and against the | LORD's anointed?**
- <sup>3</sup> "Let us break their | yoke," they say;  
"let us cast off their | bonds from us."
- <sup>4</sup> **God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;  
the LORD holds them | in derision.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then in wrath God | speaks to them,  
and in rage fills | them with terror.
- <sup>6</sup> **"As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king  
upon Zion, my | holy mountain."**
- <sup>7</sup> Let me announce the decree | of the LORD,  
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten you.
- <sup>8</sup> **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.**
- <sup>9</sup> You shall crush them with an | iron rod  
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery."
- <sup>10</sup> **And now, you | kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**
- <sup>11</sup> Submit to the | LORD with fear,  
and with trembling | bow in worship;
- <sup>12</sup> **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden | blaze of wrath.  
Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God!**

### Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

<sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader  
Congregation

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
*Please stand and sing.*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Gospel is announced.

Pastor  
Congregation

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

**Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9**

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Pastor  
Congregation

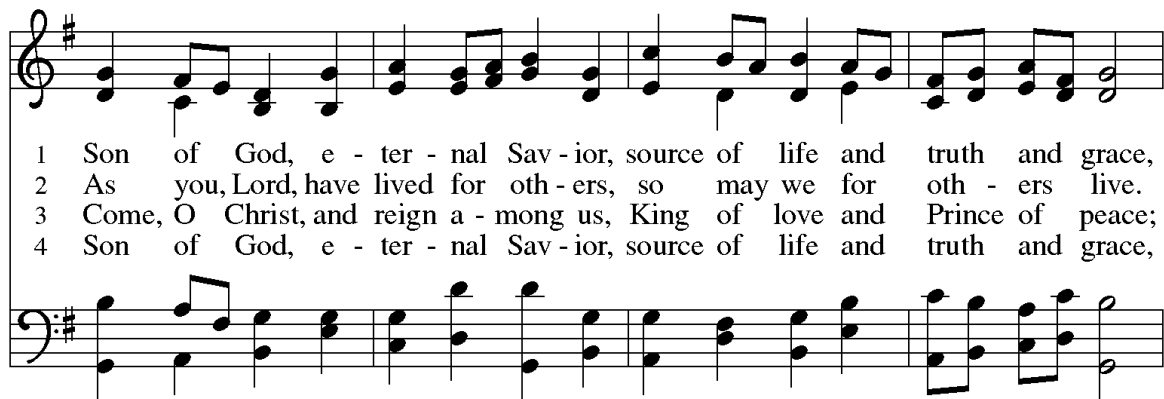
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

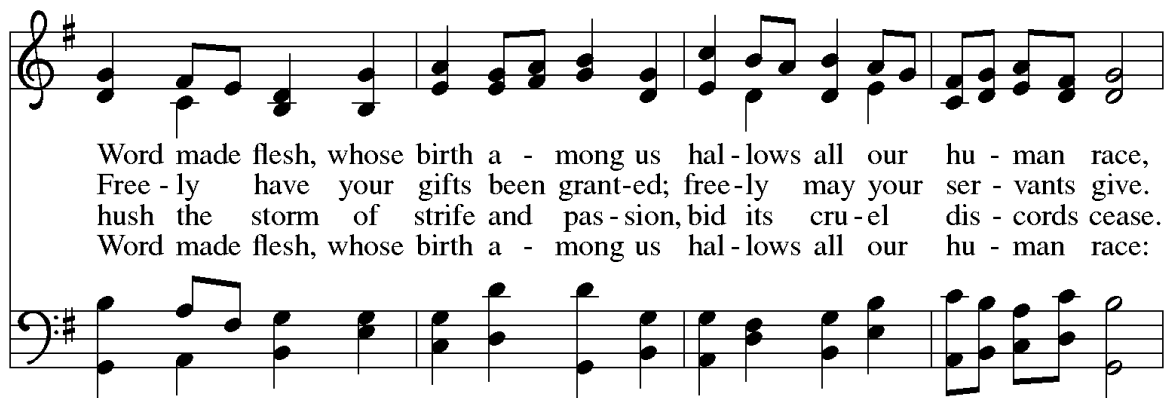
*Bishop Philip Hirsch*

# HYMN OF THE DAY: SON OF GOD, ETERNAL SAVIOR #655

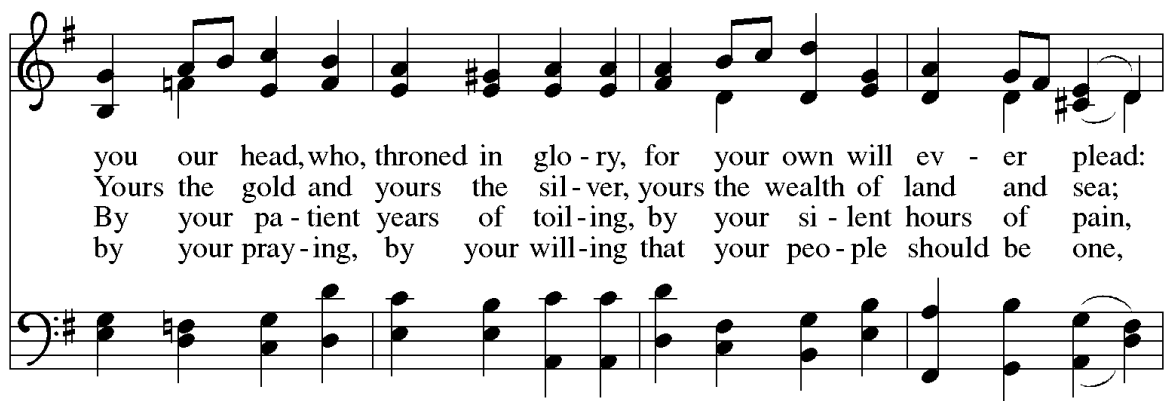
*Please stand and sing.*



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932



## 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.                      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. 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

*"Credo" from Mass in G major by Franz Schubert*

## 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

Asst. Min.  
Congregation

Let us pray.

**God of majesty,**  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
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.  
                            By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
                            in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
                            and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
                            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'n 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.*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNE

Pastor            Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
                      Come to the table; taste and see.

#### 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.*

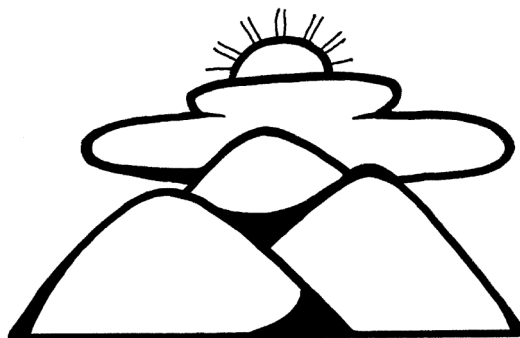
*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*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.*



# COMMUNION HYMN: THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION #654

*All sing.*

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

*Please stand.*

Pastor

Congregation

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

**Amen.**

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Asst. Min.

Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation

**Amen.**



#### **THE SENDING**

##### **BLESSING**

Pastor

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
✠ bless you now and forever.

Congregation

**Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN: HALLELUJAH! WE SING YOUR PRAISES #535

*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.*

*Refrain— sung twice each time*

Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -  
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our

bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa  
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.  
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,  
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

*Repeat stanza, then sing refrain*

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Text: South African; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984  
Music: HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA, South African; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*  
English text and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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## DISMISSAL

Asst. Min.  
Congregation

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”, arr. Jeffrey Blesch*

# 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: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7    Psalm 32    Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

## Finding God in the Clouds

We often speak of mountaintop experiences as those joyous times we look forward to with excitement and look back upon fondly, such as summer camp or an annual hiking trip. The mountaintop moments in today's readings were different: awe-inspiring, yes, but also full of devouring fires, clouds, and fear. Vision is obscured, the familiar becomes unknown, and nothing is the same. People get lost in fires, clouds, and fear, unable to find their way, but God's presence is where we get both lost *and* found. Many biblical encounters with God involved fear, pointing to the awesome reality of God that is much more than the gentle shepherd we often imagine (though God is that, too). God is, as C. S. Lewis famously said, "not a tame lion" (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001, p. 197). The truth is, we can no more plan our mountaintop times with God than we can stay there forever, as much as we think we would like to. God's place is to invite, ours to respond, faces bowed to the ground.

Eventually, of course, the time comes to leave that mountain, walking with Jesus down to the valley and getting dusty with the ashes of daily life. Many churches symbolically "roll up the Alleluias" today, recognizing that this is the end of a glorious season celebrating Christ's light and the entrance to a no-less-real season of Jesus' and our own lives, the "valley" season of Lent. But that doesn't mean there is nothing to do down in the valley. On the contrary, the traditional disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor—all help us maintain the eyes, ears, and heart to see and hear God whenever and however God appears.

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

*Today we are using Setting 10 from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.*

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