

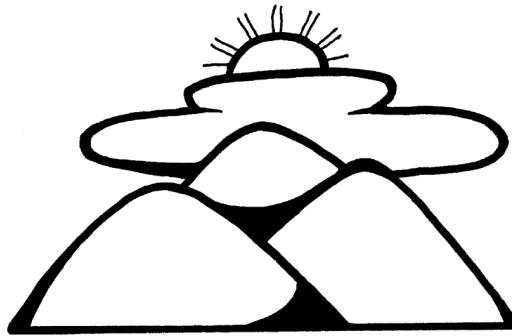
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, February 1, 2026
The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.



GATHERING

PRELUDE

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: ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY #275

*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.*

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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.
Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



THE WORD

Reading: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “weariéd” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

¹ Hear what the LORD says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I weariéd you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm 15

Congregation sings words in bold.



¹ LORD, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

² Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

SERMON

Walking with Grace Pastor John Teitman

HYMN OF THE DAY: I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT #815

Please stand and sing.

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to.
 2 I want to see . . . the brightness of God. I want to.
 3 I'm looking for . . . the coming of Christ. I want to.

fol - low Je sus. God set the stars to give.
 look at Je sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

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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.
 Congregation

Merciful God,
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
 Congregation

The peace of Christ be with you always.
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

"Blessed Are You" by Craig Courtney

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 Congregation	The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Pastor Congregation	Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Congregation	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Pastor	<p>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.</p> <p>By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your 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:</p>

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

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.

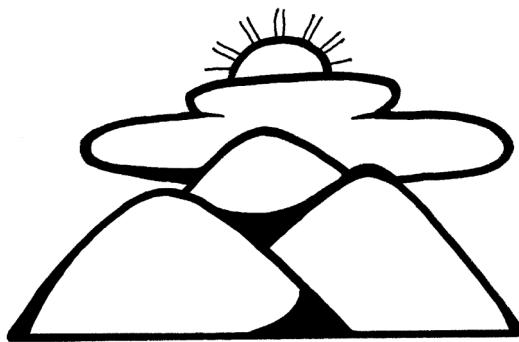
*For those not comfortable receiving from those who are distributing the elements, a separate tray is available.
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

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: BE THOU MY VISION #793

All sing.

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, after victory 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
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: LET JUSTICE FLOW LIKE STREAMS #717

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.

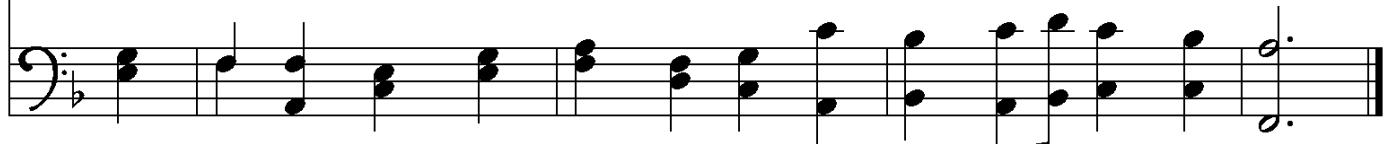
Let Justice Flow like Streams



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

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DISMISSAL

Asst. Min.
Congregation

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
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.

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

*Sunday Services:
8:30 and 11 am for traditional services and 9:45 am for the contemporary service*

Next Sunday's Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] Psalm 112:1-9 [10] 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

A Hunger for Justice

In today's first reading, God cries, "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!" (Micah 6:3). The people of God have forgotten God's deliverance and who God has called them to be. Like a shrewd prosecutor, God has placed them on trial and is examining their actions, recounting the signs of mercy and loving kindness shown to them from generation to generation and searching for a sign that they are living into who God has called them to be. And so, they are reminded that this is how you shall live: do justice, love kindness, walk humbly.

A Latin American prayer asks: "Lord, to those who hunger, give bread. And to those who have bread, give the hunger for justice." The words of this more modern-day prayer do not sound so different from the ancient words spoken by the prophet Micah to God's people. "What does the Lord require of you," asks Micah, "but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8). The hunger of God's people has already been filled by the mercy of God, and so they are called by God to feed the hunger of others through lives of justice, kindness, and humility.

In the Sunday assembly, God surrounds the gathered people with reminders of who and whose they are: we splash in the waters of baptism, are brought to new life in the word, are fed and forgiven through bread and wine. Around the table, hunger is satisfied, and a hunger for justice is renewed. From the table, God sends the gathered assembly, blessed and broken, to feed the hunger of others as, together, we await the fulfillment of the kingdom.

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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