

# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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

Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 2024  
The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



*The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

8:30 Service:

*"Moderato" from Sonatina by Ludwig van Beethoven*

*"Tarantella" by Fritz Spindler*

*Amy Cho (Piano)*

11:00 Service:

*"King of Kings" by Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood & Jason Ingram*

*Emily Osifchin (Voice)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand.*

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
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 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 you, and for his sake God forgives you all our sins.  
To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and  
bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Congregation **Amen.**



## GATHERING HYMN: THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE #831

*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.*

### The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;  
2 The God of A-br'ham praise! At your su-preme com-mand  
3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all-suf-fi-cient grace  
4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de-pend.

An-cient of ev-er-last-ing days, and God of love—  
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.  
shall guide me all my pil-grim days in all my ways.  
I shall, on ea-gle wings up-borne, to heav'n as-cend.

"I Am the One I Am"—by earth and heav'n con-fessed;  
I all on earth for-sake—its wis-dom, fame, and pow'r—  
You deign to call me friend; you call your-self my God!  
I shall be-hold your face; I shall your pow'r a-dore,

I bow and bless the sa-cred name for-ev-er blest.  
and you my on-ly por-tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
And you will save me to the end through Je-sus' blood.  
and sing the won-ders of your grace for-ev-er-more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the *Yigdal*, c. 14th cent.  
Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

#### 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.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



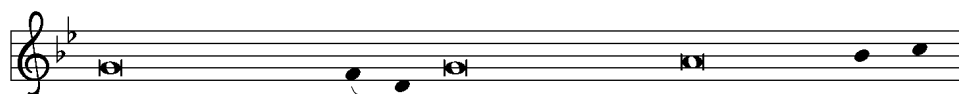
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



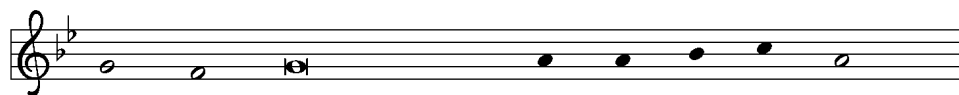
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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: Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Reader Word of God, word of life.

Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 22:23-31

*Congregation sings words in bold.*



You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's<sup>1</sup> line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off-<sup>1</sup>spring of Israel.  
**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's**  
**face hid-<sup>1</sup>den from them;**  
**but when they cry out,<sup>1</sup> the LORD hears them.**

From you comes my praise in the<sup>1</sup> great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who<sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.  
**The poor shall eat<sup>1</sup> and be satisfied,**  
**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts<sup>1</sup> live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn<sup>1</sup> to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow<sup>1</sup> before God.  
**For dominion belongs<sup>1</sup> to the LORD,**  
**who rules o-<sup>1</sup>ver the nations.**

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow<sup>1</sup> down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be-<sup>1</sup>fore the LORD.  
**Their descendants shall<sup>1</sup> serve the LORD,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to genera-<sup>1</sup>tions to come.**

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people<sup>1</sup> yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The<sup>1</sup> LORD has acted!"

## Reading: Romans 4:13–25

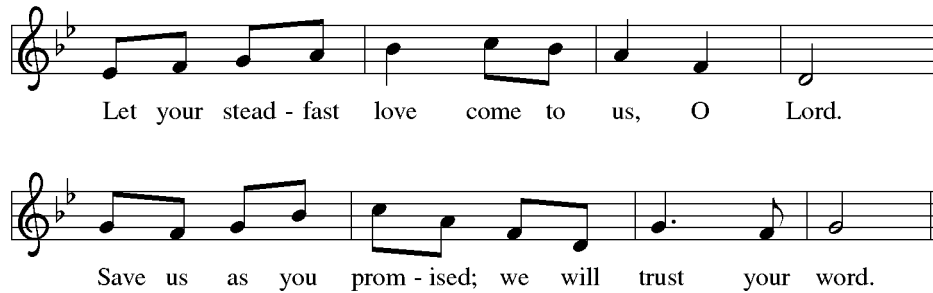
*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

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



The Gospel is announced.

Pastor

Congregation

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Mark 8:31–38**

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Pastor

Congregation

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



**SERMON**

*Take Up Your Cross*  
*Pastor Sandy Kessinger*

# HYMN OF THE DAY: TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, THE SAVIOR SAID #667

*Please stand and sing.*

## Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,  
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;  
per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;  
nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;  
nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,  
his strength shall bear your spir - it up,  
for you the Lord en - dured the cross  
for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."  
sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.  
to save your soul from death and hell.  
one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.  
Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848; arr. hymnal version  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



## APOSTLES' CREED

Seminarian With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Congregation **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:*

Reader Hear us, O God.  
Congregation **Your mercy is great.**

*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

*8:30 Service:  
"Grande Valse Brillante" Op. 18, No.1 by Frederic Chopin  
Emily Osifchin (Piano)*

*11:00 Service:  
"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" by John Carter*

## COME TO THE TABLE

### OFFERTORY SONG

*Please stand and sing.*

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The final note of the fifth staff is a whole note G, followed by a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor

Congregation

Let us pray.

**God our provider,  
you have not fed us with bread alone,  
but with words of grace and life.  
Bless us and these your gifts,  
which we receive from your bounty,  
through Jesus Christ our 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.  
                              You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
                              and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
                              that renewed in the gift of baptism,  
                              we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
                              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, 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

Congregation

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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, 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 MUSIC

8:30 Service:

*"Almost Like a Dream" by Faber and Faber*

*"March" by Pyotr Tchaikovsky*

*Caroline Pfister (Piano)*

*"Trepak" by Pyotr Tchaikovsky*

*"Theme" from Swan Lake by Pyotr Tchaikovsky*

*Andrew Pfister (Piano)*

11:00 Service:

*"Reverie" by Claude Debussy*

*Eric Cho (Piano)*

*Please stand.*

Pastor

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

Congregation

**Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Seminarian

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting make us hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation

**Amen.**



## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

Pastor

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Congregation

**Amen.**

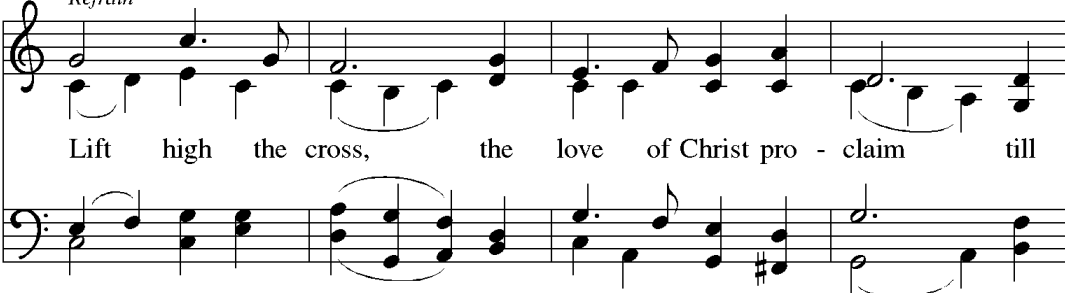
# SENDING HYMN: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS #660

*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.*

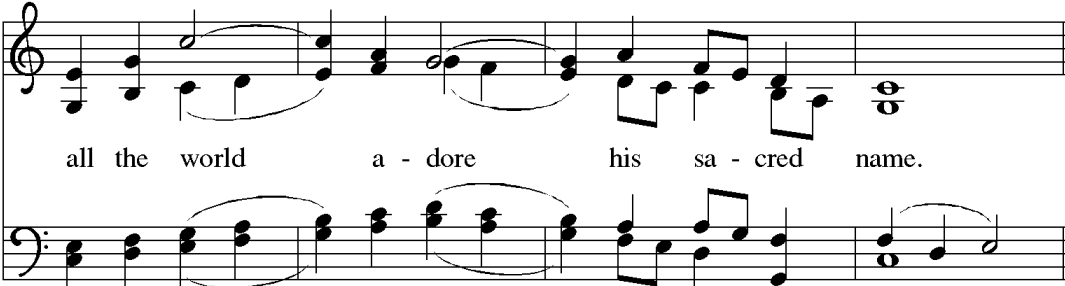
*All sing.*

## Lift High the Cross

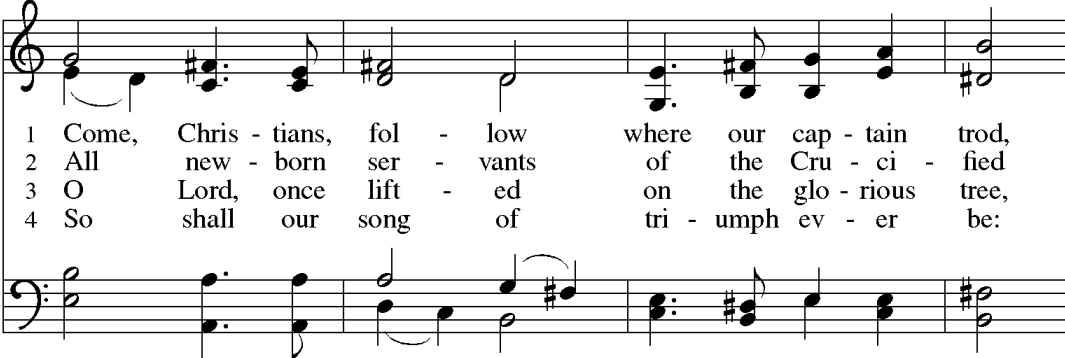
*Refrain*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

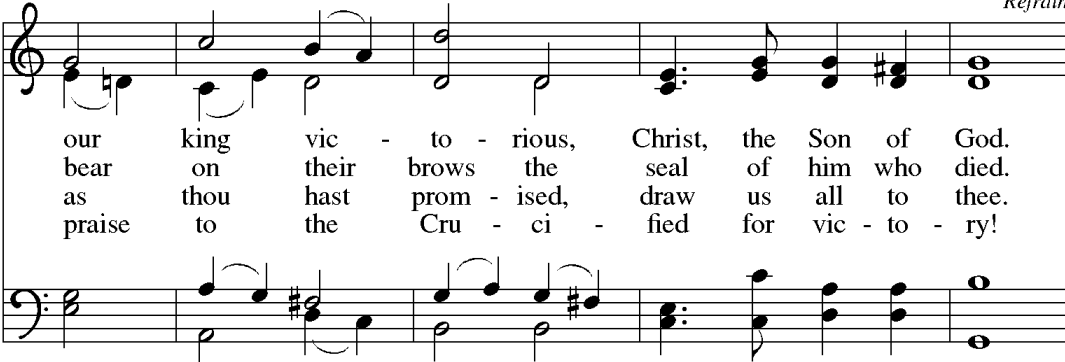


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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## DISMISSAL

Seminarian  
Congregation

Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*8:30 Service:*

*"The God of Abraham Praise" - arr. Michael Burkhardt*

*11:00 Service:*

*"Sonatina" Op. 20, No. 1 by Friedrich Kuhlau*

*Kai Osifchin (Piano)*

### Hope against Hope

Paul tells us that Abraham hoped "against hope" (Romans 4:18). Many of us know this feeling. The injustices in our world, the damage we see in the environment, and the wounds we bear in our own souls can all seem like too much. The promises of redemption poured out in baptism sometimes seem so far away.

Amid this reality, we hear Jesus teach that he "must" suffer, die, and rise again. To Peter this sounded like foolishness. If the Messiah were rejected, how could the salvation they longed for ever come? But Jesus insists that to deny this is to reject "the things of God." Why must it be so?

Because of God's great love. Jesus must suffer because he will do everything that needs to be done to rescue God's world from sin and death. He will endure rejection, torture, and even death. He "must" do this because the world's brokenness is that deep. We don't need better teaching or stronger motivation. We need rescue from powers greater than ourselves. He will bear the burden of sin and death in his body to release us from their grasp. Love drives him to this full extent of mercy.

And in the mystery of God's grace, Jesus will die. But he will be raised again. And his death and resurrection set us free from sin and death's power. We can hope, even in the most hopeless of circumstances, because Jesus has passed through all the evils that threaten us and emerged triumphant. In Jesus, our sins are forgiven, the world's injustices will not last forever, and everything broken will be made gloriously new. Until then, he gathers us around the life-giving word and gives himself to us in a holy meal. He leads us on our cross-shaped journeys of dying to sin to discover true life. And he sends us forth to share the good news of God's mercy with a world longing for hope.

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

## ***Sunday Services***

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

*Wednesdays in Lent, February 21-March 20*

*Holden Evening Prayer Service*

*Dinner 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, Service at 7:30 pm*

Next Sunday's Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

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

*Today we are using Setting 9 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.*