

+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am February 4, 2024

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



In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Seminarian In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth; it was a formless void and darkness covered the deep. God said: “Let there be light!

All And there was light.

Seminarian In the middle of life, when we become more aware of our flaws and the shadows that surround life, God calls us into the illuminating presence of His Word.

**All Lord, your Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

Seminarian In the fog of life, when good and evil compete and when our future is put in doubt, we are reminded of the true power of God in Christ Jesus.

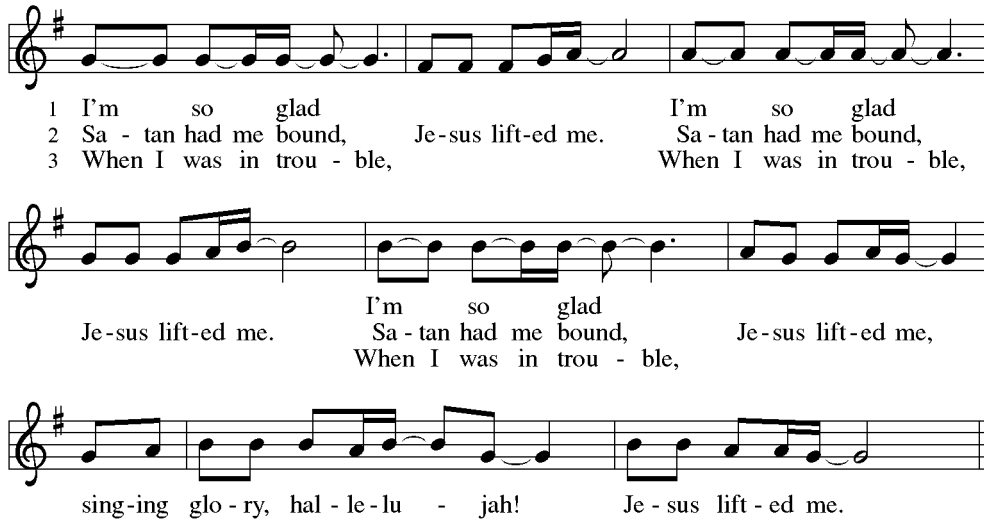
**All The true light, which enlightens everyone,
has come into the world.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not overcome it.**

Seminarian Epiphany is the season of light. As we continue our life’s story, as we deal with challenges, pursue goals and occasionally fail, may we always know that Christ is our light.

**All Jesus said: I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Please stand and sing. I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,

Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,

sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

CONFESSION

Seminarian Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be among them." Christ is here, in our hearts and souls as we gather for worship. Christ is here, to heal and redeem. Let us open our hearts and minds for God's healing ministry!

Silence and reflection

Seminarian Most merciful God,
**All Come into our lives,
come and heal what is broken,
correct what is sinful,
bless what is small and tender,
uncertain and in need of growth.
Come into our lives
and anoint our community
that it may serve your kingdom
in this world!**

Pastor The God of truth who renews us in body, mind and soul, grant us insight, fore-sight and a desire to follow the path of Christ. In the tender compassion of our God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit your sins are forgiven. May the bless-ings of God rest upon us all.

All Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All

Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Please stand and sing.

Open our eyes, Lord

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

Je - sus, to reach out and touch

him, and say that we love him.

O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Text and music: Bob Cull
Text and music © 1976 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Reading: Isaiah 40:21–31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Reader
All

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

Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16–23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a servant to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Please stand and sing.

Thy Word

*Words and Music by
Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith*

CHORUS

♩ = 70 F C/E F B♭/D C F

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

5 C/E F B♭/D C F *Fine*

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

CCLI Song # 14301

Pastor
All

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



Gospel: Mark 1:29–39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Pastor
All

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

SERMON

There He Prayed
Pastor Sandy Kessinger

Please stand and sing.

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Refrain — All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing, for whole - ness, for new life:
4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our



hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
deep - est night. We call you; we wait:



Refrain

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

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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.

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. God of Grace,

All 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.

All Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Pastor 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."

Please sit.

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.

OFFERING MUSIC

"Hear Our Song" words and music by Marc Byrd, Steve Hindalong and Jadon Lavik

SONG OF OFFERING
Please stand and sing.

We are an offering

Text and music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Bug and Bear Music, admin. Word Music, Inc.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our

lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor
All

Let us pray.
**Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In the bread and the wine you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

MEAL

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.**

Pastor Revealing God we give thanks and praise to you. You send your light into the world, and in that light we see the truth of who you are and the truth of who we are. You call us to worship you. You direct us to yourself. You become what we are that we might become what you are. And so with the choirs of angels gathered around your eternal throne we join in their hymn of unending praise:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.


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. For those taking Holy Communion: Pastor will give verbal instructions on how Holy Communion will be distributed.

COMMUNION SONG


All sing.

On Eagle's Wings

Leader or All




1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,




say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain
All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.



4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957

Music: ON EAGLE'S WINGS, Michael Joncas

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TABLE BLESSING

Please stand.

Pastor May the body and blood of Christ fill you with all love and peace, this day
and always.

All Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.
Giver of every gift,
Raise us to new life by your power
in Christ's body and blood,
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

All Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
+ bless you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

SENDING SONG
All sing.

Firm Foundation

2 Timothy 2:19

♩=112 With confi. WORDS and MUSIC: Nancy Gordon and Jamie Harvill

Je - sus, you're my firm foun - da - tion;

I know I can stand se - cure.

Je - sus, you're my firm foun - da - tion;

I put my hope in your ho - ly word,

I put my hope in your ho - ly word. *Fine*

1. (I have a liv - ing hope;) I have a liv - ing hope;
2. (Your word is faith - ful,) Your word is faith - ful,

(I have a fu - ture.) I have a fu - ture.
(might - y in pow - er;) might - y in pow - er;

(God has a plan for me,) God has a plan for me, (of
(God will de - liv - er me,) God will de - liv - er me, (of

this I'm sure.) of this I'm sure.
this I'm sure.) of this I'm sure.

DISMISSAL

Asst. Min.
All

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
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 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

Next Sunday's Scripture:

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

A Fiercely Tender Love

Think of a lioness; perhaps you've seen one in a nature documentary. Her power is palpable, even through the TV screen. She is strong and fierce, able to expertly take down prey and defend her pride from danger. She is also gentle, grooming her tiny cubs carefully in the afternoon sun. With the same strong jaws she is able both to kill an enemy and to carry her young gingerly by the scruff of their neck. Jesus' power is something like that: just as mighty as it is tender.

Jesus casts out demons relentlessly. In a single evening, he exorcises an entire city's worth! Jesus' power over the demons is so complete that he doesn't even permit them to speak. What are the demons in your own life, or in your community? What forces seek to dominate or control? What systems cause hurt or destruction? Out of God's great love for us, Jesus grapples with each and every source of pain, oppression, and suffering in the world.

With that same power, Jesus gently lifts Simon's mother-in-law by the hand, and her fever is gone. In a tender bedside moment, she is healed personally, intimately, and completely. This woman, ordinary and unnamed in Mark's gospel except by her relation to her son-in-law, is still not so unimportant as to escape Jesus' notice and care. And neither are we.

Jesus bathes us in the waters of salvation and defends us from danger. He feeds us at the table of mercy and carries us tenderly into abundant life. We are protected, healed, and loved by the One who created the cosmos, who possesses power to destroy any earthly power, yet who "gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless" (Isaiah 40:29). Like cubs learning from their mother, we rise and follow so that our lives might show forth that same fiercely tender love.

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

Call to Worship and Creed were written by Andreas Wagner.

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