

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

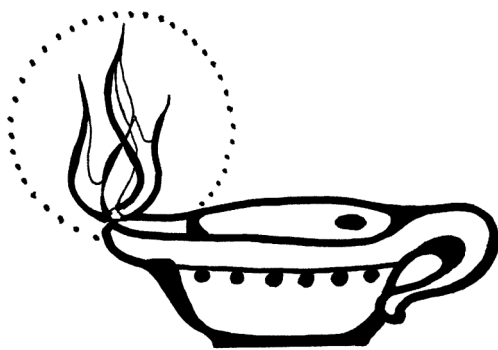
Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, February 8, 2026

The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.



GATHERING

PRELUDE

"When Morning Gilds the Skies" - arr. Jason Payne

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.**

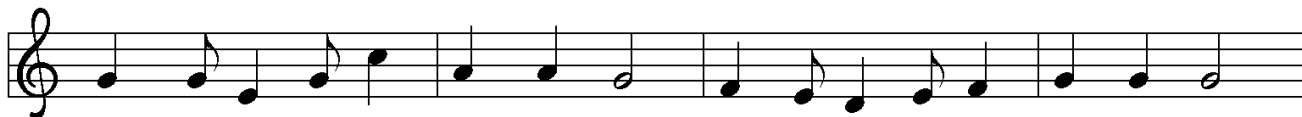
Pastor The former things have passed away,
 and new things God now declares:
 Like a spring of water that never fails,
 God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
 and forgives your sin in ✙ Jesus' name.
 May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
 and bless you with the gift of peace.

Congregation **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY #754 WOV

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.

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTED, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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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.
Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE WORD

Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

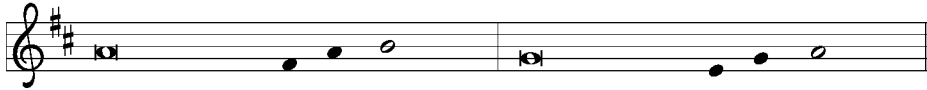
- ¹ Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
- ² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
- ³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
- ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
- ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
- ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
- ^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”
- [^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
- ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
 you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to live in.

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

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

Congregation sings words in bold.



- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
 and have great delight in | God's commandments!
- ² **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;**
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
 and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
 and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶ **For they will nev- | er be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
 their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,**
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;
 they will hold up their | head with honor.
- [¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;**
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.]

Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
 nor the human heart conceived,
 what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.]

Reader Word of God, word of life.

Congregation **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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Congregation

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Pastor

The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation

Praise to you, O Christ.

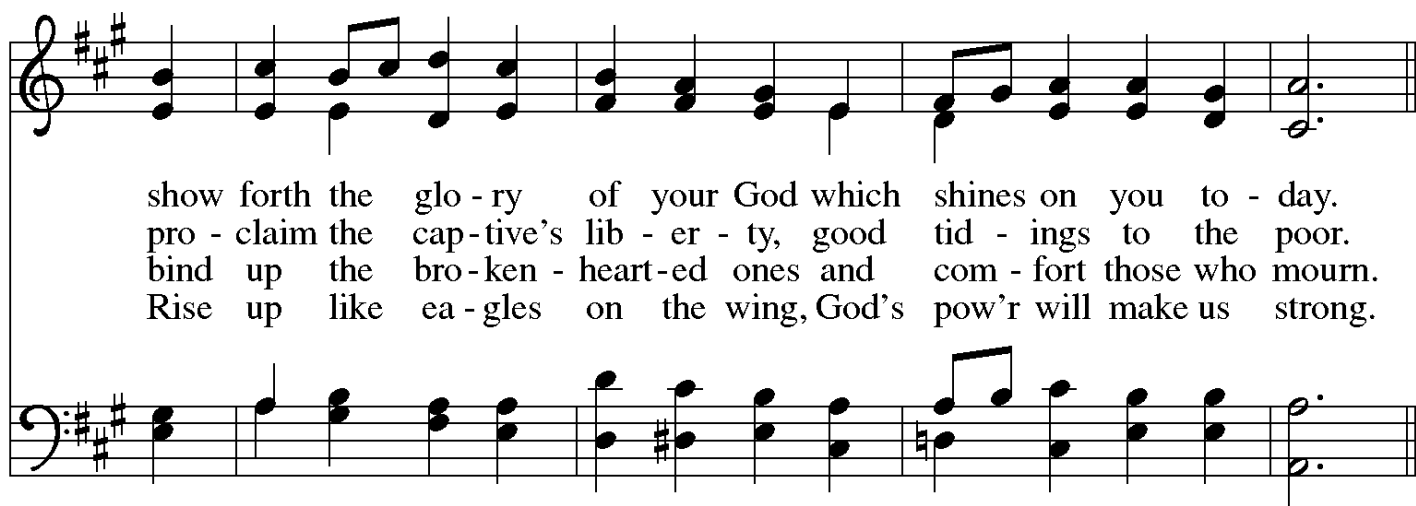
SERMON

God Dreams A Redeemer
Pastor John Teitman

Arise, Your Light Has Come!



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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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. 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

"You Are the Light" by Tom Fettke

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.

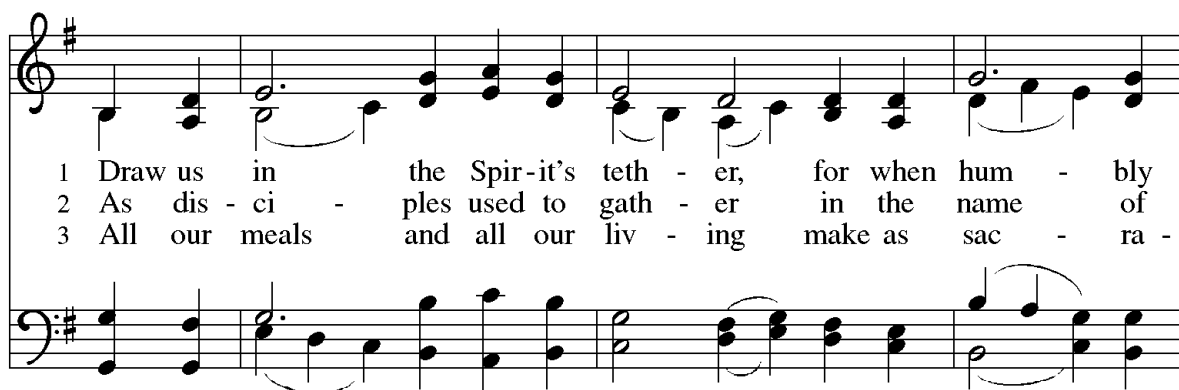
You are an important part of our faith community.

In Holy Communion we receive the true body and blood of Christ.

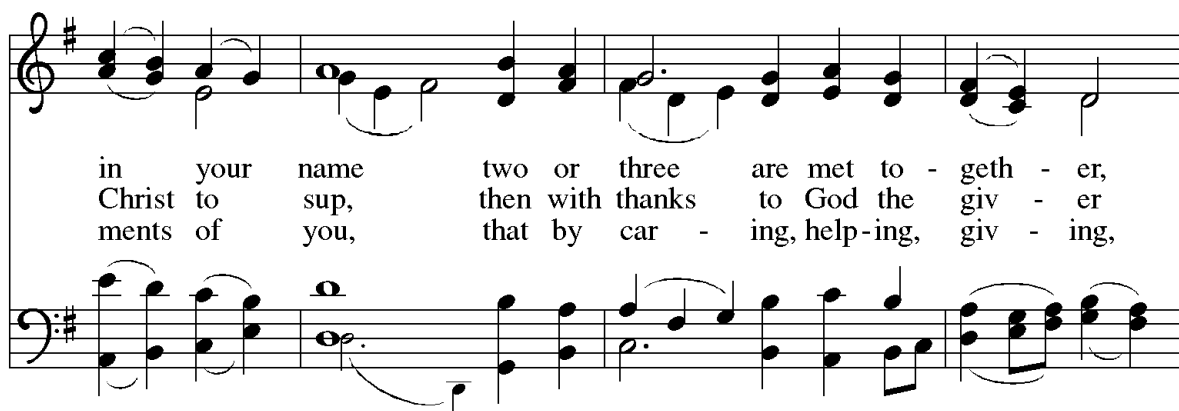


COMMUNION HYMN: DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT'S TETHER #470

All sing.



1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931.

Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

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Please stand.

Pastor

Congregation

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

Amen.

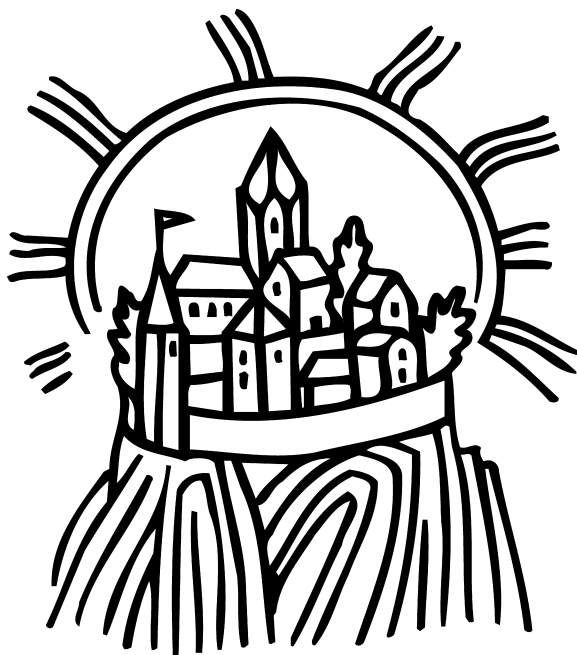
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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: I'M SO GLAD JESUS LIFTED ME #673 WOV

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.

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

DISMISSAL

Asst. Min.
Congregation

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

POSTLUDE

"Rigaudon" - Andre Campa

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: Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

It's Time to Lighten Up!

This is a strange time of year. The days are short, the nights are long, and even though we dream of more daylight, we walk around hoping against hope that there won't be enough sunshine produced for a rodent (okay, a groundhog!) to see its own shadow. A quick scan of today's news can be equally as bleak. It is time for a little more light in an otherwise dark and dreary time.

Enter Epiphany. The missional emphasis of this season shines like a beacon of light and hope in the dead of winter, bringing good news in the middle of this world's not-so-good news. This week God provides the mission in Isaiah—feed the hungry, care for the homeless, clothe the naked. Upon accomplishing this mission God tells the people, “Your light shall break forth like the dawn.” Paul continues his Spirit-led mission, encouraging the church in Corinth, “No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.” Jesus teaches his disciples, “You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light shine before others” (Matt. 5:14, 16). Through these words in Jesus' sermon, he gives followers of every day and age a mission to share the light which scatters the darkness.

Whether you are looking in the news or out the window, things may seem pretty dark and dreary at this time of year, but do not miss the light of Epiphany! We are indeed created in God's image, therefore the spark of the divine is alive in all of us. The light shines through us as we live out God's mission for our lives each day. As Epiphany continues, we should all be prepared to let our light shine and share the good news.

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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