

+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am January 28, 2024

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



In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.



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.**

Please stand and sing.

WORDS and MUSIC: Paul Baloché, Ed Kerr

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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!

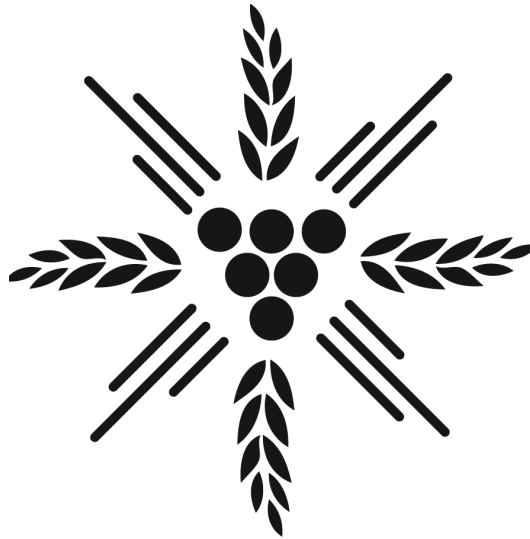
Silence and reflection

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, foresight 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 blessings of God rest upon us all.
All Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
All Amen.



SONG OF PRAISE

Please stand and sing.

Open our eyes, Lord

D G² G Em⁷/A A⁷
 O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

G/D D A/C# Bm D/A GM⁹
 Je - sus, to reach out and touch

Em A⁷ G/D D² D
 him, and say that we love him.

DM⁷ A/G G Em⁷ A⁷
 O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

G/D D A Bm⁷ D/A GM⁹
 lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Em⁷ A⁷ D
 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: Deuteronomy 18:15–20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

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

Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

Gospel: Mark 1:21–28

The story has barely begun, and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer.

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

SERMON

Love Builds Up
Pastor Sandy Kessinger

Please stand and sing.

Lord, My Strength

1 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;
2 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a - lone:

Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan - d'ring heart.
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe - ly home.

Be my eyes, be my ears, be the on -
Ev-'ry step that I make, be the road

- ly voice I hear; guide my soul, give me sight,
I will take; be the thoughts that I keep

help me walk with - in your light.
and in ev - 'ry word I speak.

3 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan - d'ring heart.

Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a - lone:
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe - ly home.

Text: Dean Krippaehne
Music: LORD, MY STRENGTH, Dean Krippaehne

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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

*"O Praise The Name (Anástasis)" by
Benjamin Hastings Dean Ussher Marty Sampson*

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray.
 All **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.**

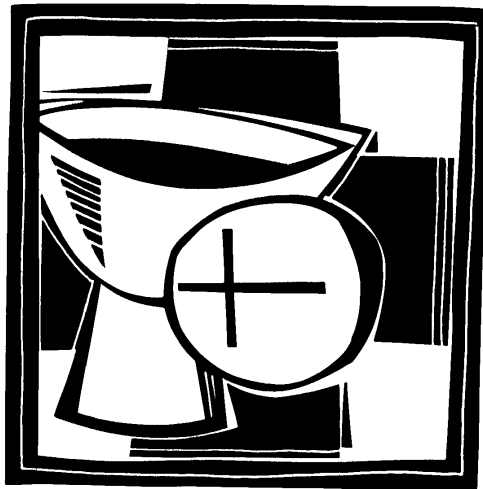
Pastor Revealing God we give thanks and praise to you. You send your light into the world, and in that light we see the truth of who you are and the truth of who we are. You call us to worship you. You direct us to yourself. You become what we are that we might become what you are. And so with the choirs 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.

Healer of Our Every Ill


Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.




1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your

2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is

3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,

4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.

still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.

ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.

way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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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.

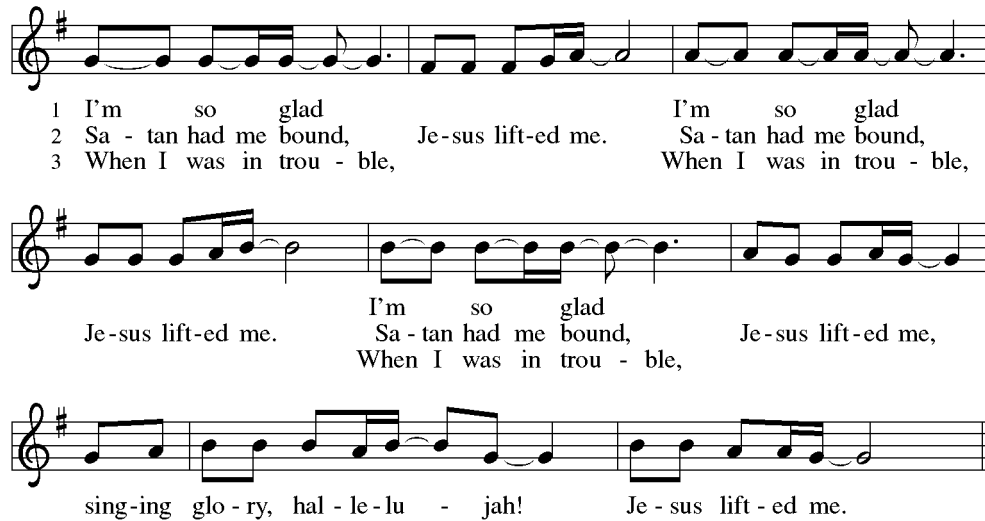
BLESSING

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.

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.

All

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Teaching in Words and Actions

Jesus' teaching in the synagogue surprises, shakes, and even shocks the people of Capernaum who have gathered for the weekly celebration of the sabbath. His proclamation is different from what they are accustomed to hearing. Mark doesn't tell us what Jesus taught this particular day, but all the gospel writers describe his message as consistently one of compassion, peace, hope, and love. Clearly, listeners heard something they found surprising in Jesus' words.

In addition, Jesus' teaching goes beyond words; he lives out his message in transforming and liberating actions, as we see in his healing of the man with an unclean spirit. The people sense an authority in Jesus only found in one whose words and deeds match—one who moves beyond theory to practice. It's like learning from a physician who regularly practices medicine, a theologian who pastors a parish, a coach who plays the sport personally. In the synagogue, when Jesus unexpectedly practices what he has been preaching, it's so new to his audience that they find it frightening and life-giving all at once.

At first, the healing miracle Jesus performs in today's reading may seem distant from the preoccupations of our contemporary society. This kind of exorcism may be uncommon for us in mainline Christian churches, but we know well that various troubles have a grip on our existence and our being. On the one hand, we experience our own "unclean spirits" such as despair, jealousy, hatred, or guilt. On the other hand, we regularly encounter the "unclean spirits" of our society: intolerance, selfishness, indifference, materialism, or contempt. But even in the moments when we are divided, disoriented, and destabilized, Jesus speaks surprising, wondrous words that challenge and heal us, so we can be restored to the life God intends us to enjoy and share with others.

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:

Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

The flowers are given to the glory of God,

Call to Worship and Creed were written by Andreas Wagner.

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