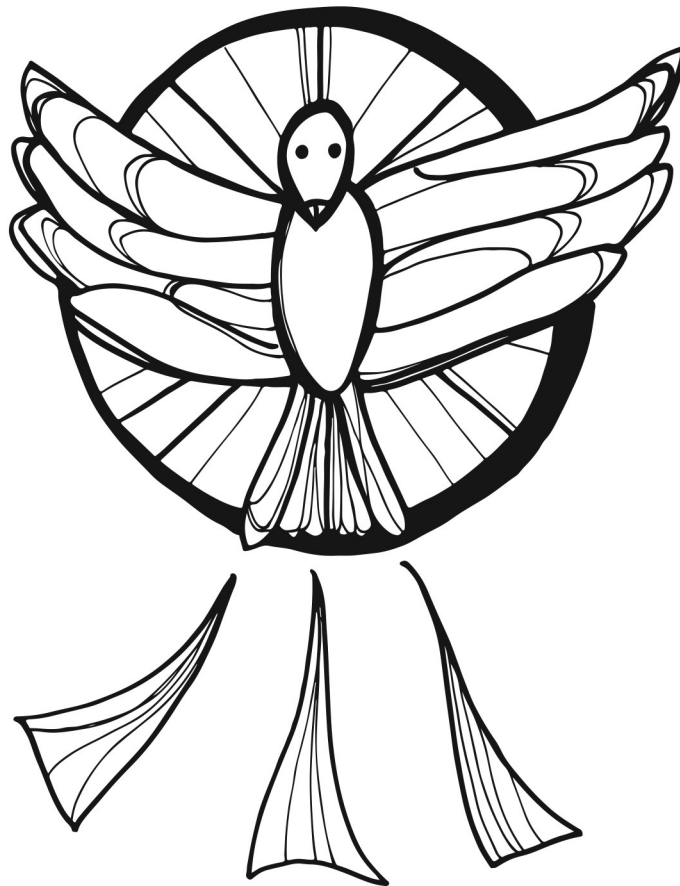


+ Contemporary Worship +  
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

---

9:45 am January 7, 2024

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



*Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.*



## **PRELUDE**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor 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.**

Pastor 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.**

Pastor 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.**

Pastor 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.*

## Celebrate the Lord of Love

WORDS and MUSIC: Paul Baloche, Ed Kerr

Musical score for the song 'Celebrate the Lord of Love'. The score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of E major (indicated by four sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 116-124. Chord symbols (E, A2, B, E) are placed above the first four measures. The lyrics 'Trade your heav - y heart for a heart of joy;' are written below the staff. The second staff continues with chord symbols A2 and B, and the lyrics 'cel - e - brate what God has done.' The third staff has chord symbols E, A2, B, and E, with lyrics 'Join the song of praise as we gath - er here;'. The fourth staff includes chord symbols A2, B, E, A2, and B, with lyrics 'cel-e-brate the Lord of Love. Je-sus is our Lord;'. The fifth staff has chord symbols E, A2, and B, with lyrics 'he is reign - ing here. We de-clare, "His king -'. The sixth staff includes chord symbols E, A2, B, and E, with lyrics 'dom's come." Dark-ness has to flee in his ho-ly light;'. The seventh staff has chord symbols A2, B, and E, with lyrics 'cel - e - brate the Lord of Love.' and ends with a 'Fine' marking. The eighth staff has chord symbols A, B, E, A, B, and E, with lyrics 'All cre - a - tion sings; hear the o - cean roar.'. The ninth staff includes chord symbols C#/E#, F#m7, and B7sus, with lyrics 'Let the earth pro - claim that Christ is Lord.' and ends with a 'D.C. al Fine' marking.

Trade your heav - y heart for a heart of joy;

cel - e - brate what God has done.

Join the song of praise as we gath - er here;

cel-e-brate the Lord of Love. Je-sus is our Lord;

he is reign - ing here. We de-clare, "His king -

dom's come." Dark-ness has to flee in his ho-ly light;

cel - e - brate the Lord of Love. *Fine*

All cre - a - tion sings; hear the o - cean roar.

Let the earth pro - claim that Christ is Lord.

## **CONFESSION**

Pastor 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*

Pastor 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.  
Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**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: Genesis 1:1-5

*Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the primeval darkness, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for any person living in the chaos and darkness of despair. God created and continues to create new life.*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

**Reading: Acts 19:1–7**

*In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptized them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and empowered them with gifts of the Spirit.*

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — altogether there were about twelve of them.

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**

$\text{♩} = 70$  F C/E F B $\flat$ /D C F

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

5 C/E F B $\flat$ /D C F *Fine*

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

CCLI Song # 14301

© 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company | Curb Word Music

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

CCLI License # 1850655



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

**Gospel: Mark 1:4–11**

*Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.*

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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


**SERMON**

*Through the Waters*  
*Pastor Josh Wullenweber*


***Please stand and sing.***

## Wade in the Water

*Refrain*  
All




Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,




wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All




1 See that host all dressed in white,  
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the  
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?  
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.  
looks like the band that . . Mo - ses led.  
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.  
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual



## **NICENE CREED**

Asst. Min. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Congregation **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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

*"Deep River", African-American Spiritual arr. by H.T. Burleigh, Matt Osifchin, baritone*

## 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.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two staves of music. The first staff has five measures with lyrics underneath: 'We lift our', 'voic - es,', 'we lift our', 'hands,', and 'we lift our'. Above the notes are the chords G, C<sup>2</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>2</sup>/E, and C/E. The second staff has five measures with lyrics underneath: 'lives up to you:', 'we are an', 'of-fer-ing,', 'we are an', and 'of-fer-ing.'. Above the notes are the chords F, C/E, Dm<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>/G, and C. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes in the third and fourth measures of the second staff.

### **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.**

### **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.***

*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. Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

## COMMUNION SONG

***All sing.***

### Baptized and Set Free



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.



### **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 the power  
of 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.*

## Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.  
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

**DISMISSAL**

Asst. Min.

**All**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**Thanks be to God.****POSTLUDE**

## A Life-changing New Chapter

Jesus does not become the Son of God at the moment of his baptism. Indeed, his relationship to God the Father is eternal—from forever in the past, through the incarnation, and forever into the future. But Jesus' baptism is a watershed moment (pardon the pun) representing the beginning of his public ministry and revelation as both fully human and fully divine.

At the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is an unknown person from Nazareth, a remote town about which scripture says little (but for Nathanael's insinuation of its bad reputation at John 1:46). Jesus would have seemed much like the other people who came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. Yet this is the Son of God who has chosen to join all the people on this earth, to live like we live, to experience what we experience. So Jesus gathers with the multitude that comes for this ritual of a new beginning with and through God. And a new life does open in front of Jesus. The unexpected suddenly erupts for this ordinary-seeming man: in this human among humans a new chapter is initiated in God's story for the world—a new chapter that will come to involve a new kind of baptism.

This new baptism forms the church—both initially and yet today. No longer the temporary washing in water that John performed, Christian baptism is a definitive act of God, through water and the Holy Spirit, in which we are “marked with the cross of Christ forever” (ELW, p. 231) and raised to “newness of life” (Romans 6:4). As we follow Mark and the other evangelists' accounts of Jesus' ministry, even to death and beyond, we will learn what it means to be marked with Christ's cross. But foundational to this—and the gift that makes it possible for us—is that the Creator's words to Jesus resonate in our own baptism: “You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased.” It's a life-changing new chapter for us too.

## 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](mailto:Church@redeemermclean.org)

### *Next Sunday's Scripture:*

*1 Samuel 3:1-10*

*Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18*

*1 Corinthians 6:12-20*

*John 1:43-51*

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

*Call to Worship and Creed were written by Andreas Wagner.*

CCLI License# 1850655

*Please return this bulletin to the entrance hall for recycling if you choose not to take it home.*