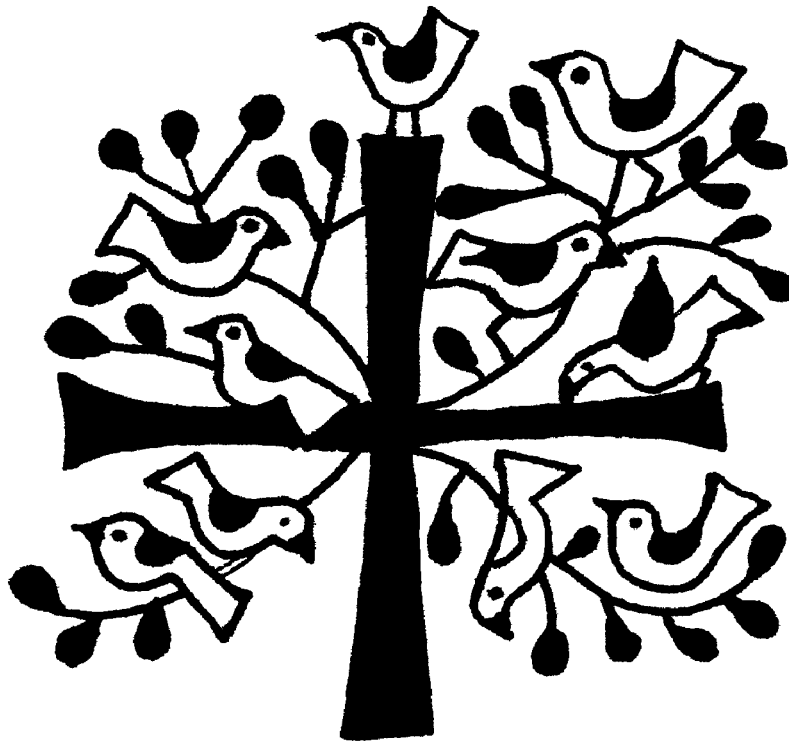


+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9 am July 30, 2023

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



+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

Pastor We gather together to worship, knowing that God is already here among us;
All knowing that there is nothing that separates us
from the presence of our Lord.

Pastor Wherever we are, wherever we go, God is near.
All So let us enter into this service of worship
with confidence and hope.

Pastor We enter this time knowing that God is with us,
 meets us, and blesses us with grace and love.
All Thanks be to God for this. Amen!

GATHERING SONG

Sing Out, Earth and Skies

Text: Marty Haugen
Music: SING OUT, Marty Haugen

Leader All



1 Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O
2 Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with
3 Come, O God of flash - ing light: twin - kling star and
4 Come, O God of snow and rain: show - er down up -
5 Come, O Jus - tice, come, O Peace: come and shape our

Leader



Righ - teous One; come, and bring our love to birth:
righ - teous - ness; teach us all to sing your name:
burn - ing sun; God of day and God of night:
on the earth; come, O God of joy and pain:
hearts a - new; come and make op - pres - sion cease:

All



in the glo - ry of your Son.
may our lives - your love con - fess.
in your light we all are one.
God of sor - row, God of mirth.
bring us all to life in you.

Refrain



Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who



loves you! Raise your joy - ful cries!



Dance to the life a - round you!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor We are called to follow Christ. We are called to obey Jesus' commandment to love one another. Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

All **Loving God,
we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts.
Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness,
that we may be filled with your joy.**

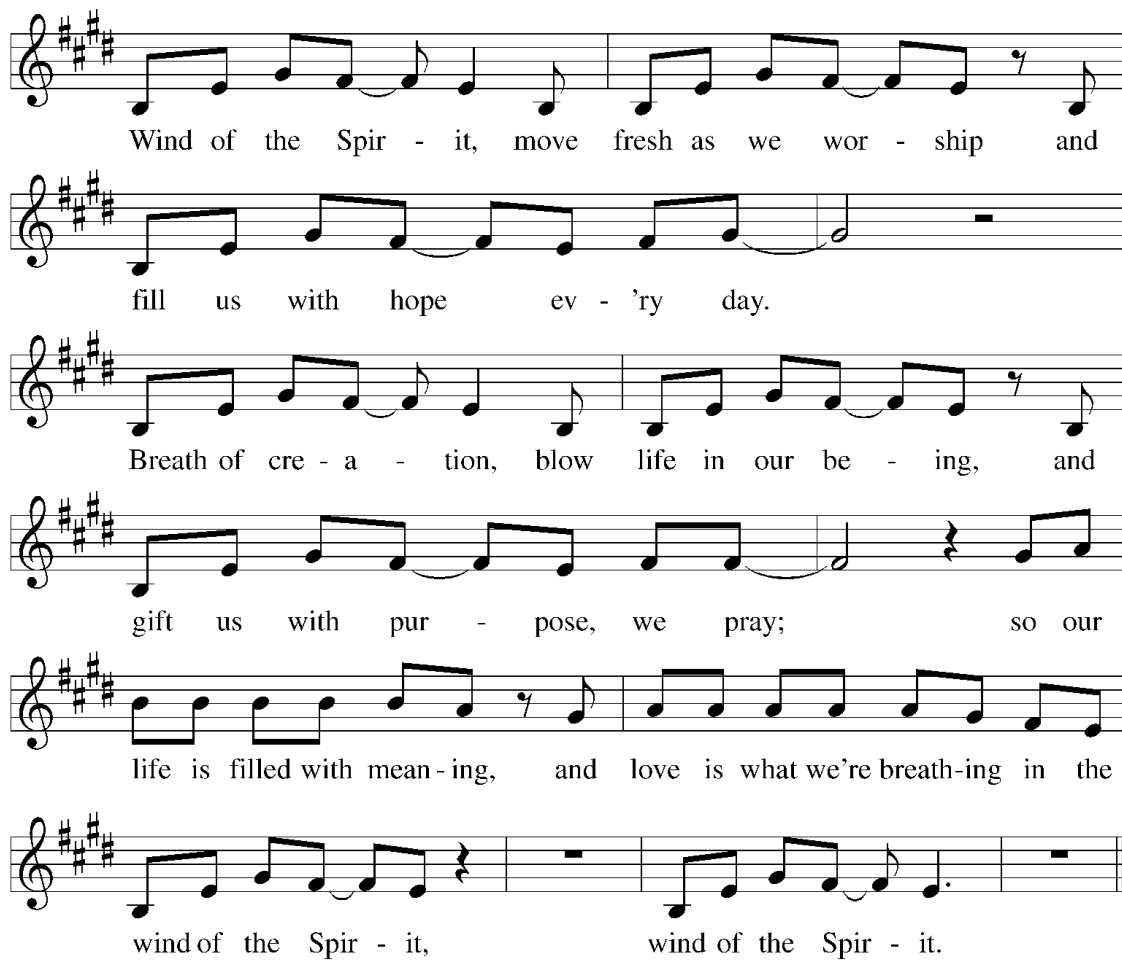
Pastor The promise of our faith is that we are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of the Church of Christ, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Receive the Holy Spirit and be empowered to be witnesses of God's love that we know through his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Please stand and sing.

Wind of the Spirit



Wind of the Spir - it, move fresh as we wor - ship and
fill us with hope ev - 'ry day.
Breath of cre - a - tion, blow life in our be - ing, and
gift us with pur - pose, we pray; so our
life is filled with mean - ing, and love is what we're breath - ing in the
wind of the Spir - it, wind of the Spir - it.

Text: Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

Music: WIND OF THE SPIRIT, Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

Text and music © 1991 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor

Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ THE WORD +

Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

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

Reading: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Please stand and sing.

Text: James Tallman
Music: anonymous
Text © 1996 James Tallman

What a mighty word God gives

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a D chord and contains the lyrics 'What a might - y Word God gives!'. The second staff begins with an A/F# chord and contains the same lyrics. The third staff begins with a D chord and contains the lyrics 'When he speaks, our faith is fed. Give us, Lord, our dai - ly bread. God sent us the on - ly Son, who for us the vic - try's won.' The fourth staff begins with a D/F# chord and contains the lyrics 'What a might - y Word God gives!'. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G, D, G, A/F#, Bm7, Em7, A7sus, A7, D, G/A, D, G/E, D/F#, G, D/A, A7, and D.

What a might - y Word God gives!

What a might - y Word God gives!

When he speaks, our faith is fed. Give us, Lord, our dai - ly bread.
God sent us the on - ly Son, who for us the vic - try's won.

What a might - y Word God gives!

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

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

SERMON

“The kingdom of heaven is.....” Pastor Josh Wullenweber

Please stand and sing.

Praise to You, O God of Mercy



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -

ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

3rd time to Coda Φ 1 2
thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for -

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -

to stanza 3
mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

Φ Coda
ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor 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:

Pastor Hear us, O God.
All 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.
All Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Pastor May the peace of the Lord be with you always.
All And also with you.

Please greet one another with words such as "God's peace be with you."

Sit

OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.
Offering plates are found at the front of the worship space by the baptismal font and in the
back of the church as you leave our worship space. Please give as you are able.*

Please sign the red attendance book and pass it down the pew.

+ SHARING OUR GIFTS +

OFFERING MUSIC

"Simple Song" by Leonard Bernstein, Courtney Ruckman, soloist

OFFERTORY

Please stand and sing.

We are an offering

The musical notation is written on two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.' The notation includes various musical symbols such as treble clef, key signature (one sharp), time signature (3/4), and various chords (G, C2, Dm7, C2/E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm7, Dm7/G, C). There are also triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray.

All Gracious God, with your steadfast love you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, and from idleness to action. With joy and thanksgiving we ask that these gifts may be a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share all that we have received to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

+ COME TO THE TABLE +

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.**

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.
Please sit.



INVITATION TO COMMUNE

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.

All sing.

Here Is Bread Here Is Wine

Words and Music by
Graham Kendrick

C G/B Am E7 F/A C/G G F/A Am G/B

1. Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, He is with us.
2. Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, He is with us.
3. Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, He is with us.

In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup there is life for - ev - er.

Break the bread, drink the wine, Christ is with us here. here.
Know His grace, find His peace, feast on Je - sus fied.
We pro - claim, 'til He comes, Je - sus cru - ci -

14 Fmaj7 F#m7b9 Em7 A+7 Dm7 G7 C D.C. C

In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here. here.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn in 4/4 time. It features a vocal melody line and a bass line with piano accompaniment. The score includes three verses of lyrics and a final verse. Chord symbols are provided above and below the staff lines. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The tempo is not specified.

© 1991 Make Way Music, admin. Integrity Music, inc.

Please stand.

Pastor

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood,
strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.

Amen.

PRAYER

Pastor

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

+ THE SENDING +

BENEDICTION

Pastor

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

All

Amen.

SENDING SONG

All sing.

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona

Refrain— sung twice each time

Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our

bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

End

ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

DISMISSAL

Pastor
All

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Please join the Redeemer family outside the Crossroads foyer area
for fellowship and refreshments.*

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Children are welcome in our worship.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

Email: Church@redeemermclean.org

Hearing help available: We have for your
use personal hearing amplification units
available in the narthex.

Summer Sunday Services

July 23 - August 20 9 am - Contemporary Service 10:30 am - Traditional Service

Next Sunday's Scripture:

Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9,14-21, Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

The Greatest of Shrubs

Surely God's kingdom should end up sounding more impressive. Surely God can do better. Providing shelter for birds does sound like something God would do, but why can't the birds nest in a more attractive tree? A mustard seed, at its best, grows into a sort of weedy shrub. The greatest of shrubs is not that great.

Maybe that's the point. Maybe these little stories are supposed to seem a little strange. After all, God's choices often seem that way to us. God does not always value what we value. God likes small, weedy shrubs as much as big, majestic trees.

That is extremely good news for those of us who suspect we have more in common with the shrub than the tree. It is good to know that God loves both! It is good to know that God loves the mustard seeds of this world enough that God sends Jesus to be a mustard seed, to be the living proof that the kingdom of heaven is real. And the kingdom of heaven is here, because Jesus is here. And as we are filled with his Spirit, we also become living signs of that same kingdom.

After all, a God whose kingdom can be compared with something like a mustard seed is probably not going to stop short of using other unlikely things. A God like that might even decide to use people like us. So look around. What do you see? What do you see that surprises you? What do you see that you normally take for granted? What do you see that's alive? The kingdom of heaven is like that. The kingdom of heaven is even like us, right now. The kingdom of heaven may not do what we expect, or even what we want—but one way or another, the kingdom of heaven will grow.

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

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