

+ Contemporary Worship +  
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

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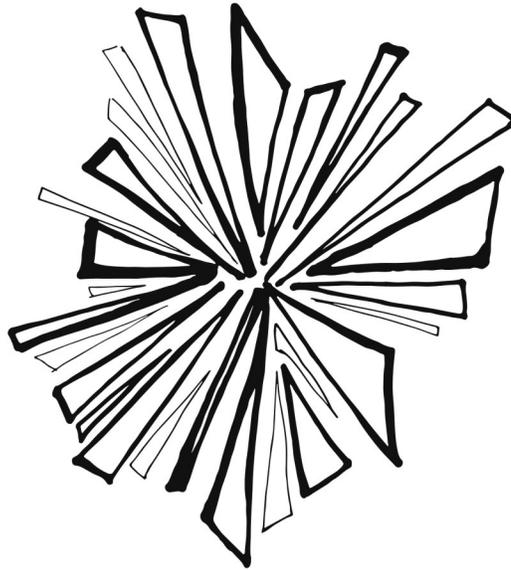
9:45 am March 15, 2026

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



*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*





**PRELUDE**

*" Hope in God" by Ron Mallory  
Redeemer Bell Choir*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**  
*Based on Psalm 23*

Pastor        The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.  
**All            The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside  
still waters.**

Pastor        You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's  
sake.  
**All            Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear  
no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Pastor        You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
**All            you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

Pastor        Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
**All            and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**GATHERING SONG**  
*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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**CONFESSION**

Pastor Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

All **Amen.**

Pastor Held in God's mercy,  
let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence and reflection*

Pastor Compassionate God,  
All **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives and guide us again  
in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Pastor Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always open and stretched wide to welcome everyone home.  
You have a place in God's house forever.

All **Amen.**



# Rock Of My Salvation

63

Teresa Muller

Fm<sup>9</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> Cm B<sup>b</sup>/C  
 You are the Rock — of my — sal - va - tion,  
 A<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm B<sup>b</sup>/C  
 You are the strength — of my life.  
 Fm<sup>9</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> Cm B<sup>b</sup>/C  
 You are my hope — and my in - spir - a - tion,  
 A<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm A<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>  
 Lord, un - to You — will I cry. I be - lieve in You, — be -  
 Gm<sup>7</sup> Cm<sup>7</sup> A<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/C Cm<sup>7</sup>  
 lieve in You, — for Your faith - ful love to me. — You have  
 A<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> Cm<sup>7</sup>  
 been my help — in time of need; —  
 Fm Fm/A<sup>b</sup> Gsus G  
 Lord, un - to You will I cleave. —  
 Fm<sup>9</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> Cm B<sup>b</sup>/C  
 You are the Rock — of my — sal - va - tion,  
 A<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm  
 You are the strength — of my life.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor        The Lord be with you.  
All            **And also with you.**

Pastor        Let us pray.  
                 Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
All            **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

**Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

*Please stand and sing.*

## Hide Me in Your Holiness

WORDS and MUSIC: Steve Ragsdale

Hide me, Lord, in your ho - li - ness; ev - 'ry  
sin I now con - fess. Praise to you, for -  
giv - ing Lord, hide me in your ho - li - ness,  
hide me in your ho - li - ness.

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

**Gospel: John 9:1-41**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

**“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”**

Jesus answered,

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him,

“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”

(which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

**“Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”**

Some were saying,

**“It is he.”**

Others were saying,

**“No, but it is someone like him.”**

He kept saying,

“I am he.”

But they kept asking him,

**“Then how were your eyes opened?”**

He answered,

“The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.”

**“Where is he?”**

“I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them,

“He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

Some of the Pharisees said,

**“This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.”**

Others said,

**“How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?”**

And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

**“What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”**

“He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them,

**“Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”**

His parents answered,

***All women: “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes.***

***All men: Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”***

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said,

**“He is of age; ask him.”**

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,

**“Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”**

“I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

**“What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”**

“I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

Then they reviled him, saying,

**“You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”**

The man answered,

“Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

**“You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?”**

And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said,

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”

Jesus said to him,

“You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”

“Lord, I believe.”

And he worshiped him.

Jesus said,

“I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him,

**“Surely we are not blind, are we?”**

Jesus said to them,

“If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Pastor  
Congregation

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

## **SERMON**

*Knowing and Seeing*  
*Pastor Sharon Core*



*Please stand and sing.*

## Spirit of the living God

F Gm<sup>7</sup>/B<sup>b</sup> D/A Gm F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me,

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note 'Spir', a quarter note 'it', a quarter note 'of', a quarter note 'the', a quarter note 'liv', a quarter note 'ing', a quarter note 'God', a quarter note 'fall', a quarter note 'fresh', a quarter note 'on', and a quarter note 'me'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving bass lines.

F Gm<sup>7</sup>/B<sup>b</sup> D/A Gm F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, maintaining the same structure and lyrics.

B<sup>b</sup> F G<sup>7</sup> C F/C C<sup>7</sup>

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note 'Melt', a quarter note 'me,', a quarter note 'mold', a quarter note 'me,', a quarter note 'fill', a quarter note 'me,', a quarter note 'use', and a quarter note 'me.'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and bass movement.

F Gm<sup>7</sup>/B<sup>b</sup> D/A Gm F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece with a final vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note 'Spir', a quarter note 'it', a quarter note 'of', a quarter note 'the', a quarter note 'liv', a quarter note 'ing', a quarter note 'God', a quarter note 'fall', a quarter note 'fresh', a quarter note 'on', and a quarter note 'me'. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord.

## **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.

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

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.*

## **+ SHARING OUR GIFTS +**

## **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.*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

*"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever" by Martin Smith*

**SONG OF OFFERING**  
*Please stand and sing.*

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

We are an offering

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**

Asst. Min. With the breaking of bread and sharing the cup, Jesus offered the disciples peace and friendship, trust and forgiveness, the love and embrace of God. Jesus offers the same to all people.

**All** **Jesus, we are sinners hungry for grace.**  
**We come - eager to receive your gift of love.**  
**Receive our gifts of love**  
**and use them to further your care for the world.**  
**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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.  
**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 to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## 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 SONG

### Lead Me, Guide Me

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way; for if you  
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me  
walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***Please stand.***

Pastor

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

**All**

**Amen.**

**PRAYER**

Asst. Min.

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our  
souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through  
the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the  
world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

**All**

**Amen.**

### **+ THE SENDING +**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in  
harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**All**

**Amen.**

Pastor

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you  
may abound in love by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All**

**Amen.**

Pastor

The God of all grace bless you now and forever in the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All**

**Amen.**



**SENDING SONG**  
*All sing.*

## Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And  
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

*Last time*

Text: Henry Smith  
Music: GIVE THANKS. Henry Smith

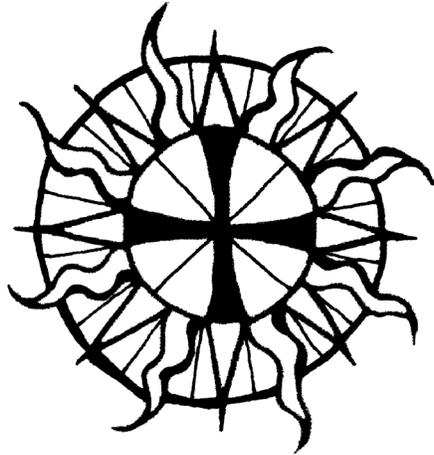
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**DISMISSAL**  
Asst. Min.  
All

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



### God's Eyes Are Not Our Eyes

One heresy in the early church was called Donatism. The Donatists held that the sacraments were only efficacious if presided over by priests who were sinless. It didn't take the church long to realize that if it held to this policy there would be no sacraments for anyone. So if the gospel can be proclaimed through the preaching of a sinner, then we must allow for the possibility that God's healing may be accomplished through extraordinary means. God chooses a boy too young to be taken seriously to anoint as one chosen to lead Israel. When the prophet Samuel is sent by God to find the new king who will replace Saul, Samuel goes through a long line of all Jesse's tall, strapping, competent-looking sons of appropriate age. When none of them are chosen, finally Jesse sends for young David. All of the obvious-to-us choices were declined in favor of a boy. What we may see as authoritative, respectable, and trustworthy may not always align with God. Today's first reading reminds us that "the Lord does not see as mortals see" (1 Sam. 16:7).

This theme of sight runs throughout today's texts, both in terms of how God does not see as we see and also in Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus chooses to heal a blind man on the sabbath with dirt and saliva, much to the dismay of the good religious people who were certain they knew better than to display such questionable judgment and behavior. Lent is a time to reevaluate. Let it also be a time to examine the ways in which we do not see what God is doing around us because we too think we know better. Bottom line: God often uses the unexpected to accomplish redemption.

## Redeemer's Lenten and Easter Services

<p><b>February 25- March 25 Wednesdays 6:15 pm - Din- ners 7:00 pm - Ser- vices</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday Lenten Service and Dinner</b> Pray with Redeemer for Holden Evening Prayer held every Wednesday at 7:00 pm until Holy Week. A light supper will be offered at 6:15.</p>
<p><b>April 2 Thursday 7:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Maundy Thursday</b> Remember Christ and his command to love one another.</p>
<p><b>April 3 Friday Noon</b></p>	<p><b>Good Friday Worship</b> On this sacred day, worship at noontime.</p>
<p><b>April 3 Friday 7:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Tenebrae Service</b> Experience the solemn majesty of this special service as we re- member Christ's death.</p>
<p><b>April 5 Sunday 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Morning Services</b> Celebrate our Risen Lord this great day. The brass musicians will accompany our talented choir, making this a festival celebration to honor our Lord.</p>

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

### *Sunday Services*

*8:30 and 11:00 am for the traditional service and 9:45 am for the contemporary service*

Next Sunday's Scripture:  
Ezekiel 37:1-14      Psalm 130      Romans 8:6-11      John 11:1-45

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