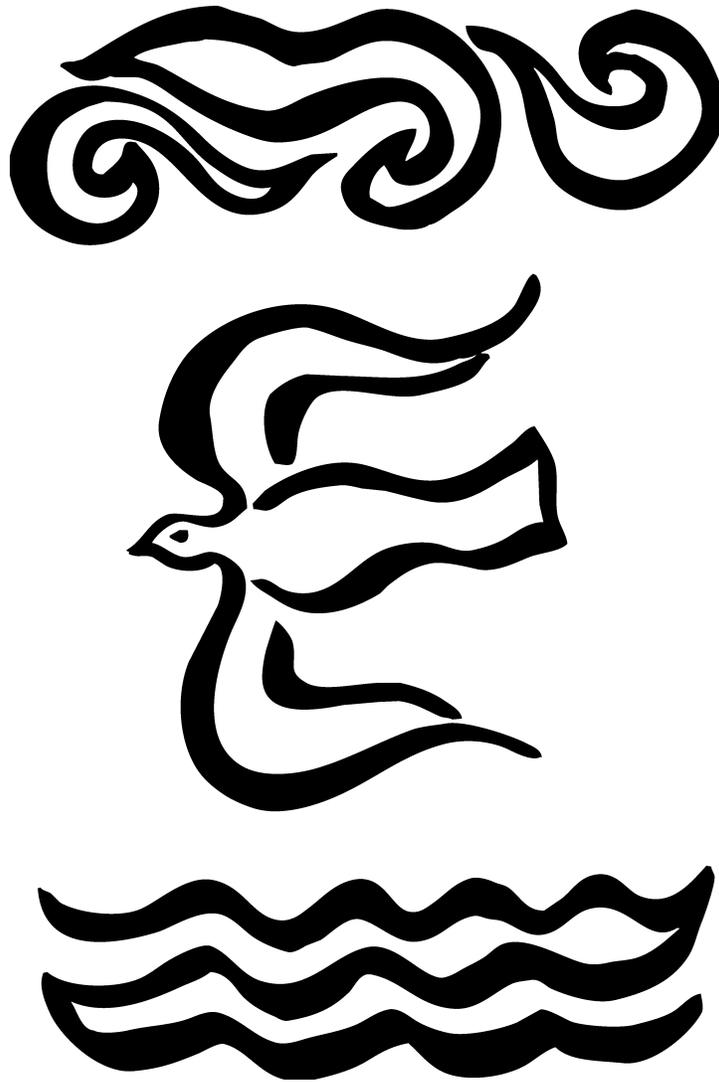


+ Contemporary Worship +  
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

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9:45 am March 1, 2026

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



*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*



## **PRELUDE**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Based on Psalm 121*

Pastor        I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?  
All            **My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor        The Lord will not let your food be moved.  
All            **Nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.**

Pastor        The Lord watches over you;  
All            **the Lord is your shade at your right hand.**

Pastor        The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
All            **from this time forth forevermore.**

**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

Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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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.  
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through 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.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



### Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

**Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 Ragdale

♩=108 CAPO I (D) Eb (D) Eb/G (D/F#) Ab/C (G/B) Bb7sus (A7sus) Bb7 (A7) Ab/C (G/B)

Hide me, Lord, in your ho - li - ness; ev - 'ry

Bb2/D (A2/C#) Eb2sus (D2sus) Eb (D) Ab (G) Bb/Ab (A/G)

sin I now con - fess. Praise to you, for -

giv - ing Lord, hide me in your ho - li - ness,

AbMaj7 (GMaj7) Fm7 (Em7) Fm/Bb (Em/A) Bb7sus (A7sus) Eb (D)

hide me in your ho - li - ness.

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

**Gospel: John 3:1-17**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

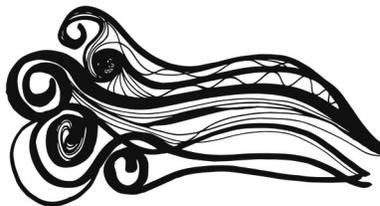
<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

**SERMON**

*Coming to God*  
*Pastor Sharon Core*



*Please stand and sing.*

40

## There is a Redeemer



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,  
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.  
there I'll serve my king for - ev - er, in that ho - ly place.

### *Refrain*



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and



send - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Text and music: Keith Green

Text and music © 1982 Birdwing Music/Cherry Lane Music Publishing Co., Inc., admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing

## **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 +**

### **PRESENTATION BY SCOUT TROOPS**

#### **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**

*"Wade in the Water" - African-American spiritual arranged by Mark Hayes*

**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.**

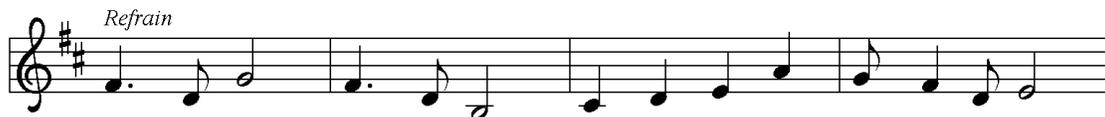
Communion will be offered by intinction. For those not comfortable receiving from those who are distributing the elements, a separate tray is available. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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

### Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!  
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.  
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.  
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34  
Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young  
Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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### **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.

Let us pray. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our 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.*

**Awesome God**

Our God is an awe - some God, he  
 reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,  
 pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!  
 Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

Chords: Em, C, G/B, G, D, Em, D/E, Em, C, G/B, G, Am, Em/B, Bm7, Em, Am, Em/B, Bm7, Em

Text and music: Rich Mullins  
Text and music © 1988 BMG Songs, Inc.

**DISMISSAL**  
Asst. Min.  
**All**

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

**POSTLUDE**



## Redeemer's Lenten and Easter Services

<p><b>February 25- March 25 Wednesdays 6:15 pm - Dinners 7:00 pm - Services</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 remember 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

## *Sunday Services*

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

### Next Sunday's Scripture:

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

### Questions Come to Light

What is it about the night that invites questions? As our head rests on the pillow and shadows stretch out on the bedroom wall, questions, like field mice, begin to emerge from the nooks and crannies of our mind. At first, the questions are utilitarian: Did someone let the dog out this evening? Are the kids' lunches packed for school? When am I going to get to the grocery store this week? And then, without warning, the questions morph: Is Grandma going to recover from this illness? Why are my prayers so short these days? Does Jesus really care about us—about me? At this point we know that night has truly descended. Truth uttered in darkness. Naked honesty feels much safer, much less exposed when light's reach seems a day way.

Maybe that is why we can relate to Nicodemus. For when did Nicodemus come to Jesus? By night! Though we can easily skip over the setting's description in this gospel encounter, it is so very important. With shadows dancing in the torchlight, Nicodemus makes his way to Jesus, beset by questions he can ask only under cover of darkness. Though the darkness is Nicodemus' security blanket, he cannot help himself. Like a moth fluttering in the night sky, Nicodemus is irresistibly drawn to the light. Not just any light: Jesus, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. As people filled with our own questions, we follow in the furtive footsteps of Nicodemus, falsely believing our naked honesty will remain hidden in the gloom of night. But the Spirit, through the light of Christ, calls us out from the shadows, and in fact, exposes us to the brilliance of God's love—a love that meets our questioning hearts with nothing less than life eternal.

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

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