

+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

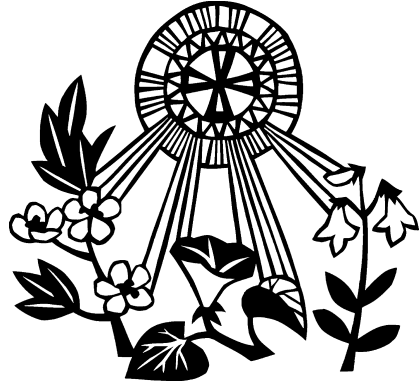
9:45 am May 17, 2026

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

Ascension of Our Lord



In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.



+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 47

Pastor Clap your hands, all you peoples;
All **shout to God with a joyful sound.**

Pastor God has gone up with a shout,
All **the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.**

Pastor Sing praises to God, sing praises;
All **sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

Pastor God reigns over the nations;
All **God is enthroned on high.**

GATHERING HYMN
All sing.

Your Everlasting Love

Isaiah 54:8-10

$\text{♩} = 132$

1. Your ev - er - last - ing love is high - er,
 (2.) - er - last - ing love is deep - er,
 (3.) - er - last - ing love is reach - ing,

high - er, high - er than the sky. Your ev -
 deep - er, deep - er than the sea. Your ev -
 reach - ing, reach - ing out to me. Your ev -

er - last - ing love is high - er,
 er - last - ing love is deep - er,
 er - last - ing love is reach - ing,

high - er, high - er than the
 deep - er, deep - er than the
 reach - ing, reach - ing out to

sky, high - er than the sky.
 sea, deep - er than the sea.
 me, reach - ing out to me.

Oh, the won - der of your ev - er - last - ing love is high - er than the
 Oh, the won - der of your ev - er - last - ing love is deep - er than the
 Oh, the won - der of your ev - er - last - ing love is reach - ing out to

sky.
 sea.
 me.

*Last time
 end here*

2. Your ev -
 3. Your ev -

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor Christ has risen and we have risen to new life with him. Let us confess the ways we have continued to remain in the tombs of sin and death.

All Living God, when we stand before the empty tomb we do not always feel the joy of the resurrection. We sometimes live in fear, doubt, and distrust. We sometimes feel empty. Forgive that which paralyzes us and prevents us from enjoying our new life in Christ. Forgive that which makes us doubt your unfailing love. Forgive that which tempts us away from the joy of your presence. Fill our emptiness with your glorious light.

Pastor Let us awaken and rise from our sleep. Let the light of Christ shine on us. Christ has forgiven our sins. Christ calls us to new life. Christ will lead us into righteousness. I 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 risen Lord.

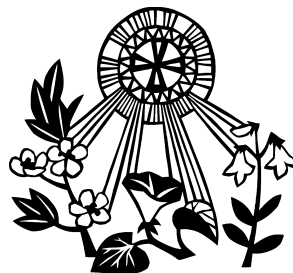
All Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



+ THE WORD +

Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

**Please stand
and sing.**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

The musical score is arranged in three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

The Gospel is announced.

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

Gospel: Luke 2:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴ [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

SERMON

Waiting and Looking Around
Pastor Sharon Core

Please stand and sing.

Great Is the Lord

Text and music: Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith
Text and music © 1982 Meadowgreen Music, admn. EMI Christian Music Publishing

Great is the Lord, he is ho - ly and just, by his
 pow-er we trust in his love. Great is the Lord, he is
 faith - ful and true, by his mer - cy he proves he is
 love. Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry.
 Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of praise. Great is the Lord, now
 lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great is the
 Lord! Great is the Lord!

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 in to 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. Merciful God.
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

Please greet one another with words such as “God’s peace be with you.”

Sit

Pastor May the peace of Christ be with you always.

All And also with you.

+ 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

“He Reigns” - words and music by Peter Furler and Steve Taylor

OFFERTORY

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.

G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our

F C/E 3 Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G 3 C

lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.
All **Risen Lord,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
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 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.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

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

*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**

Holy Light

Luke 24:13-32

♩=96 Gently

Capo 3 E^b(C) A^b(F) B^b(G) Cm7(Am7) B^b(G) E^b(C)

1. Ho - ly light, still burn - ing bright,
 2. Ho - ly fire, our heart's de - sire,
 3. Ho - ly word, all who have heard
 4. Ho - ly bread, our souls are fed,

Cm(Am) Fm7(Dm7) B^b(G) E^b(C)

pres - ence of God that frees us,
 dance of our life, pur - sue us.
 Je - sus walk - ing be - side us,
 cup of love in - vite us.

D^b(Bb) A^b(F) E^b(C)

lift the shad - ows from our souls,
 Mend our fro - zen bro - ken hearts,
 did not our hearts then burn with love?
 All are wel - come at the feast.

Fm7(Dm7) D^b(Bb) A^b(F) E^b(C) E^b(C) D.C.

shine through our lives, Lord Je - sus. sus.
 Spir - it of God, re - new us. us.
 Word of our God, now guide us. us.
 Bread of the world, u - nite us.

Last time only
 E^b(C) A^b(F) D^b(Bb) rit. A^b(F) E^b(C)

us. Bread of the world, u - nite us.

WORDS and MUSIC: Jim Strathdee

© 1996 Desert Flower Music

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. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home
 among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to
 anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the na-
 tions. In the name of Jesus,

All

Amen.

+ THE SENDING +

BENEDICTION

Pastor

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, + bless you now and forever.

All

Amen.

SENDING SONG

All sing.

Go, Make Disciples

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and so on. The final line of music ends with a double bar line.

“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.

Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.

Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you’re

serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson

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DISMISSAL

Asst. Min.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

All

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

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

Next Sunday's Scripture:

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

God Gives More than Enough

We often cast our eyes upward to look for God. When we are feeling lonely or misunderstood, we raise our hands to ask why, or shake our fists in gestures of prayer, anguish, or praise. While the scriptures promise that God is king of all the earth, sitting on his holy throne (Psalm 47), we need not only look up for God's action in our lives. Our ascended Lord lives in the heavens, but Jesus does not leave his disciples—or us—to fumble while he naps in the clouds. Before he ascends, Jesus promises that we are clothed with the Holy Spirit's power, witnesses "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

"Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" the two men in white robes asked the witnesses remaining after Jesus ascended. Why do we stand still in our lives? Is it that we just saw God (Look! Up there! Did you see?), so we expect God to arrive in the same way again? Can God be that expected and predictable? This story of Jesus ascending to the heavens after his time with us on earth gives us mixed feelings: we know he's returning to where he belongs—out of this world full of brokenness and sin to holiness and glory. Still, our longing is intense: Lord, we want to see you! How will we know it is you when you come again?

Ascension Day could be explained as the cynical "I'm outta here" of a God weary of us self-centered, broken humans, but that explanation would be short-sighted because it leaves out the important stop on the cross. Instead, Jesus' departure is accompanied with the promise of the Spirit's presence remaining among us. We look up to the skies for help, then return our gaze to those among us in need of our care, to the body of Christ and the wind of the Spirit among the baptized, preparing for the time when Jesus comes again to gather us in.

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

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