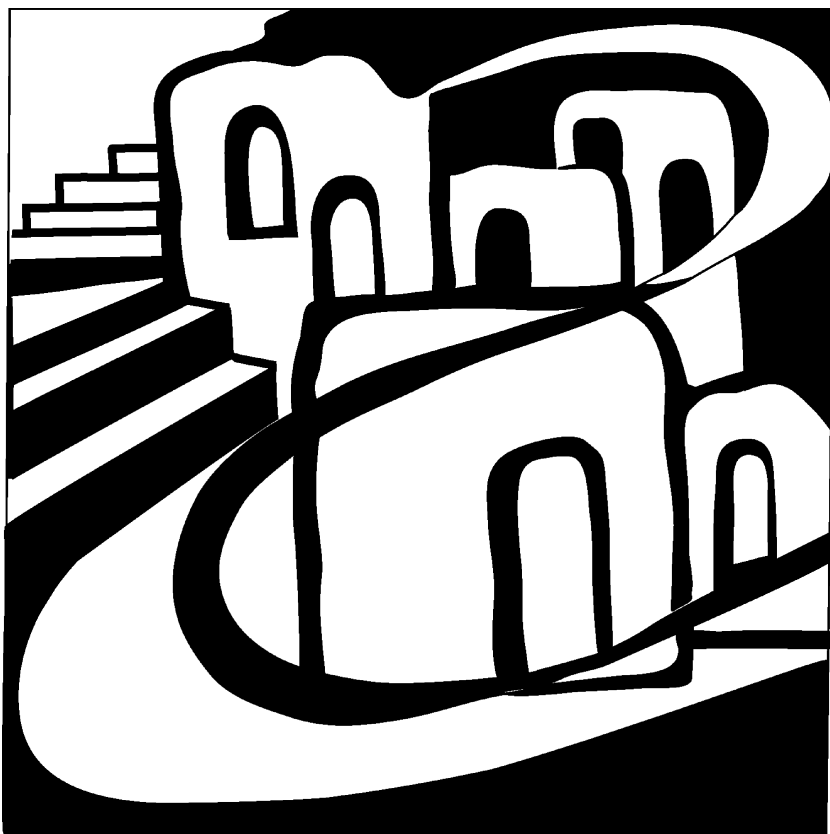


+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am May 3, 2026

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



As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.



+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

PRELUDE

RECOGNITION OF FAITH FORMATION TEACHERS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 31

Pastor In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
All **let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.**

Pastor Incline your ear to me;
All **make haste to deliver me.**

Pastor Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
All **for you are my tower of strength.**

Pastor Into your hands I commend my spirit,
All **for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.**

Pastor Let your face shine upon your servant;
All **save me in your steadfast love.**

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 Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SONG OF PRAISE

Text and music: Laurie Klein

Text and music © 1978 House of Mercy Music, admin. Miranatha! Music, c/o The Copyright Company

67 I love you, Lord

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to wor-ship you; O my soul, re-joice. Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear." The chords are: F2, Gm/F, F, Bb, F/A, Gm7, F/A, C7sus, C, Bb/D, C/E, F2, Gm/F, F, F7, Bb, F/A, Fsus/G, C7, Bb2/F, F2.

+ THE WORD +

Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸ and

"A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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

**Please stand
and sing.**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

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.

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

Please stand.

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

Gospel: John 14:1-104

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

SERMON

Maturing in Grace
Pastor John Teitman

Please stand and sing.

Step by step

O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise
you. O God, you are my God, and
I will ev - er praise you. I will seek you in the morn-
- ing, and I will learn to walk in your ways, and
step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol - low you all of my
days. O days, and I will fol - low you all of my
days, and I will fol - low you all of my days, and
step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol - low you all of my days.

Chords: D(no3), G, G², G, D/F#, D, C/E, C/D, G, D(no3), G, G², D/F#, D, C/E, C/D, Em, C/E, Em, Dsus, D, Am/E, Am/C, Am, G, G², G, D/F#, D, C/D, Am/D, D⁷sus, G, D(no3), G, G², G, Em, Dsus, D, Am⁷, F, C, D⁷sus, G²/D, D, C/D, G.

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. 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.

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

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

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

"You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)" by Marc Imboden and Tammi Rhoton

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.

Musical score for the offertory. The score is written on two staves of music. The first staff contains the melody and lyrics: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our". The second staff continues the melody and lyrics: "lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering." The score includes various chords (G, C², Dm⁷, C²/E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm⁷, Dm⁷/G, C) and musical notations such as triplets and rests.

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.

All sing.

Come and Taste

Come and taste and see how good the love of God can be!

Come and taste and see how good the love of God

can be! We come here bro-ken - heart - ed,

seek - ing all that God of - fers. Come and taste and

see how good the love of God can be! Come see!

Text: Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami
Music: COME AND TASTE, Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

Text and music © 1996 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

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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. 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 nations. In the name of Jesus,

All

Amen.

+ THE SENDING +

BENEDICTION
Pastor

All

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.
Amen.

SENDING SONG
All sing.

Firm Foundation

2 Timothy 2:19

♩=112 With confidence

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of several systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Je - sus, you're my firm foun - da - tion;
I know I can stand se - cure.

Je - sus, you're my firm foun - da - tion;
I put my hope in your ho - ly word,
I put my hope in your ho - ly word.

1. (I have a liv - ing hope;) I have a liv - ing hope;
2. (Your word is faith - ful,) Your word is faith - ful,

(I have a fu - ture.) I have a fu - ture.
(might - y in pow - er;) might - y in pow - er;

(God has a plan for me,) God has a plan for me, (of
(God will de - liv - er me,) God will de - liv - er me, (of

this I'm sure.) of this I'm sure.
this I'm sure.) of this I'm sure.

DISMISSAL
Asst. Min.
All

Go in peace. Share the good news.
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 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Overview

The words of today's gospel are most often heard during a funeral service. It is a popular choice of scripture for that occasion because the words provide wonderful assurance that the one who has died in Christ has now taken up residence in their heavenly home. The gospel begins by Jesus saying that he will prepare a place for each one of us. But as the text continues, we can see that our place is not an isolated room of our own in a giant heavenly mansion. Jesus' words are less about a place than a relationship: our relationship with Jesus and God the Father. They tell us that in Jesus we know all we need to know about God, and just as we can have a relationship with another human person, we can also have a relationship with God that will one day be as real and obvious as are our relationships with one another. The hope of one day being with Christ fully and forever is as real as the works we are called to do in his name today.

This text allows us the opportunity to contemplate what is ultimately unknowable, yet is also a central part of our faith: what heaven will be like.

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

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