

+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am November 12, 2023

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



Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

Your Everlasting Love

Isaiah 54:8-10

WORDS and MUSIC: Bill Batstone

$\text{♩} = 132$

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,
 sea,
 me,

high - er than the sky.
 deep - er than the sea.
 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.

2. Your ev -
 3. Your ev -

*Last time
 end here*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalms of Praise

Pastor Hallelujah! We sing our praises to God!

**All We lift high our praise of God
and bless God's holy name.**

Pastor God is filled with mercy and grace, not quick to anger and rich in love.

**All God is good to one and all;
everything God does is filled with grace.**

Pastor Let us sing to God a brand-new song.

**All Let us praise God from the mountaintops
and for all eternity.**

Pastor Let us praise God in this house of worship.

All Let every living, breathing creature praise God!

SONG OF PRAISE

Thy Word

Thy word, thy word is a lamp un-to my feet.

Thy word, oh, thy word is a lamp un-to my

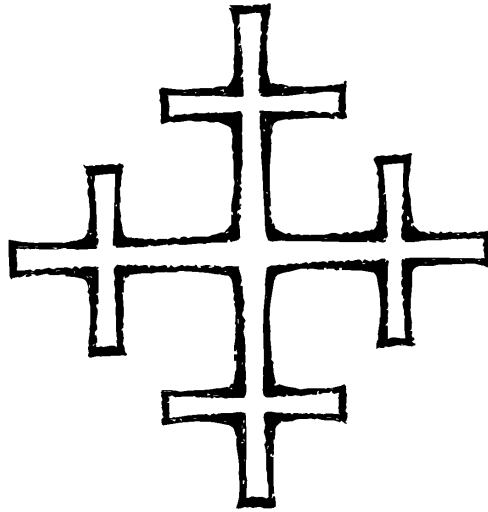
feet; and a light un-to my path, and a light un-to my

path. *To repeat* *Last time* path, and a light un-to my path.

Text: Psalm 119:105

Music: THY WORD, Richard Webb

Music © 1998 Richard Webb, admin. Augsburg Fortress



CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be among them." Christ is here, in our hearts and souls as we gather for worship. Christ is here, to heal and redeem. Let us open our hearts and minds for God's healing ministry!

Silence and reflection

Pastor Most merciful God,
All **come into our lives,
come and heal what is broken,
correct what is against your will,
bless what is small and tender, uncertain and in need of growth.
Come into our lives and anoint our community
that we may serve you with an open heart.**

Pastor The God of truth who renews us in body, mind and soul, grant us insight, foresight and a desire to follow the path of Christ whose compassion is beyond compare. In Christ, God is always making a new way for us. In the name of our Triune God – the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – your sins are forgiven.
All **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
All **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ THE WORD +

Reading: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Please stand and sing.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are as follows:

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

SERMON

The Foolish Bridesmaids Pastor Sandy Kessinger

SONG OF THE DAY

Please stand and sing.

We are an offering

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff lines. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and rests. There are also triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes. The lyrics are: 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.'

F/G G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E

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

F C/E Dm⁷ F/G G C² Dm⁷

lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our

C²/E C/E F C/E Dm⁷ F/G G/F

hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.

Em⁷ Em⁷/A A Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G Esus D/F# E/G# Am

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

Dm⁷ C²/E Bb/C Dm^{7sus2} Dm⁷ F/G

give to you, we give to you.

G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E

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

F C/E Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G C

lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — 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 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. Please give as you are able. We appreciate those who give in-person and those who give electronically.

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

+ SHARING OUR GIFTS +

ANTHEM

"One of These Days" Words and music by Jeromy Deibler

SONG OF OFFERING
Please stand and sing.

Seed Scattered And Sown

(as published by International Liturgy Publications)

Words and Music by
Dan Feiten

REFRAIN

♩ = 107 C G/B Am Am/G F G C2 F G

Seed, scat - tered and sown, wheat gath - ered and grown, bread, bro - ken and

6 C G/B Am Dm7 Gsus G C G/B Am Am/G F G

shared as one, the Liv - ing Bread of God. Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our

12 C2 F G C G/B Am Dm7 C/E F G C

hands, one cup that is shared by all; the Liv - ing Cup, the Liv - ing Bread of God.

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray.
**All God of field and forest,
 sea and sky,
 you are the giver of all good things.
 Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
 and multiply your grace in us,
 that the world may be fed with your love,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 Amen.**

+ THE MEAL +

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.

Pastor God, you are before all things;
 You are beyond all things;
 And in the midst of all things and all peoples
 you have made yourself known.

Pastor In Israel's ancient codes and prophetic oracles,
in stories of women and men,
of communities and nations
seeking identity,
feeling their strength,
and struggling with their weakness
you have made yourself known.

In Jesus of Nazareth,
in compassion for the outcast,
forgiveness for the fallen,
hope for the poor and hungry;
in his life poured out for others
and broken in rejection and disdain
you have made yourself known.

Therefore we join our praises
with countless men and women before us,
disciples and apostles,
saints and martyrs,
acclaiming your power in goodness
and your might in compassion,
as we say:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.
Please sit.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

COMMUNION SONG
All sing.

What Have We to Offer?

1 What have we to of - fer? What have we to share?
 2 What have we to of - fer? What have we to bring?
 3 What have we to of - fer? What have we to give?

Coins from the cof - fer, hearts filled with care.
 Love, ripe with laugh - ter; hope that we can sing;
 Eyes that are wide o - pen; lies that we won't live;

God will not fal - ter; so let us dare
 dreams of what we're af - ter; prom - is - es of when.
 truth that must be spo - ken; jus - tice some - how.

lay it at the al - tar there.
 Lay it at the al - tar then.
 Lay it at the al - tar now.

4 What have we to of - fer? What have we to
 give? Lives we will live.

Text: Ray Makeever

Music: LET US ENTER IN: OFFERTORY, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

TABLE BLESSING

Please stand.

Pastor Through Christ all God's people are made whole: may Christ's body and blood
strengthen you and fill your life with the joy and peace that only Christ can offer.

All Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.
We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All Amen.

**+ THE SENDING +****BLESSING**

Pastor The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age
in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

SENDING SONG
All sing.

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain:
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,

and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the alto and tenor parts providing harmonic support. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the left hand. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each corresponding to a system of music. The first system includes three verses of the song. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system includes a chorus. The fourth system concludes the song with a final line of lyrics.

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929
Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903

DISMISSAL

Asst. Min. Go in peace. Share Christ's love.
All **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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

Enough and Never Enough

Both the harsh words of the prophet Amos and the parable of the bridesmaids are scenes of anger—not pointless, misdirected frustration, but a prophetic call for change, a passionate plea that we redirect our focus. Sometimes, Amos says, anger is a result of not being heard. And sometimes, Jesus says, anger comes from fear of not being enough, not having enough, not doing enough. But being a child of God comes as a gift from God, who has poured out God's justice and righteousness on us in abundance so that we may care about those who are lacking.

What good is worship, Amos asks, if it doesn't change your lives—or that of your neighbors? What good is worship if it does not spur us to make justice happen for our siblings? The anger we encounter in Amos is of the righteous kind, the kind intended to call us to action.

In contrast, the anger expressed in the parable of the bridesmaids is that born of fear. Who ever said that the bridegroom would not admit maidens who ran out of oil? Both the bridesmaids described as wise and those described as foolish are angry because of fear of missing out. Jesus is the light of the world, and so are you, he says (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14). But when your light grows dim and tired, exhausted and weary, and you cannot see the road ahead, his light will guide the way.

How different this parable might be if the bridesmaids with oil had shared their oil. If you are not ready, they might have said, let us show you how to be prepared. What good is the kingdom of heaven if we have not lived our lives in such a way as to light the pathway for others? What good is worship if we leave the building unmoved by the cries for justice all around us?

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Children are welcome in our worship.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

Email: Church@redeermclean.org

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

***Redeemer's Sunday worship schedule is:
8:30 and 11 am - Traditional Services 9:45 am - Contemporary Service***

Next Sunday's Scripture:

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

Today we, the Redeemer Congregation, welcome into baptized membership:

Isaac Ahmed Kurtom; his parents are Rebecca and Ahmed Kurtom,
and sponsors are Malcolm and Joy DeCruise, Jim and Lauran Stirrett, and Sawsan Kurtom.

We pray God's richest blessings on Isaac Ahmed as he and his parents continue to grow in faith.

*The flowers are given to the glory of God and
by Natasha Dillaman in memory of her grandparents.*

Creed written by Andreas Wagner Eucharistic Prayer written by Samuel Wells

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