# + Contemporary Worship + At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am October 22, 2023

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



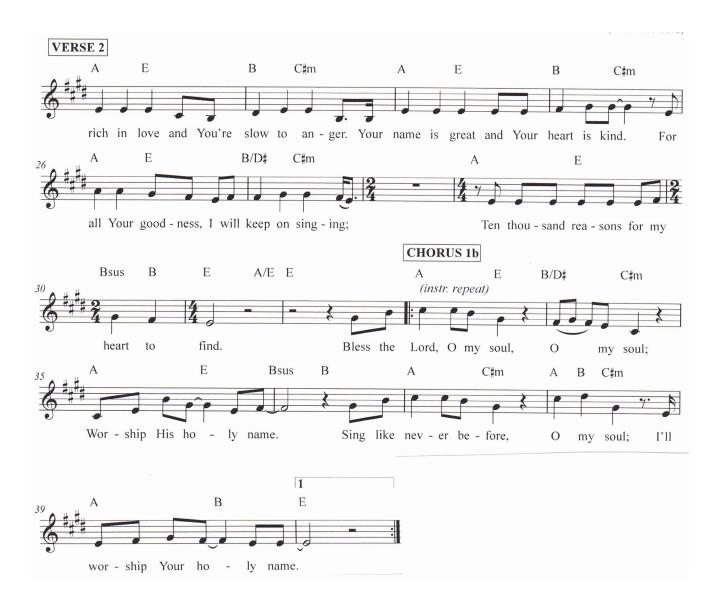
In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

### + WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **GATHERING SONG**





CCLI Song # 6016351
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#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Based on Psalms of Praise

Seminarian Hallelujah! We sing our praises to God!

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

Seminarian 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.

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

All Let us praise God from the mountaintops

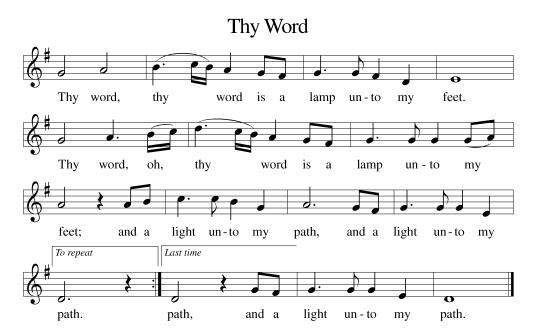
and for all eternity.

Seminarian Let us praise God in this house of worship.

All Let every living, breathing creature praise God!

#### SONG OF PRAISE

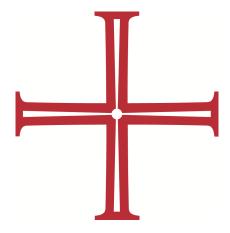
Please stand and sing.



Text: Psalm 119:105

Music: THY WORD, Richard Webb

Music © 1998 Richard Webb, admin. Augsburg Fortress



#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Seminarian 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

Seminarian Most merciful God, **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

Seminarian Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you

what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All Amen.

#### **TEMPLE TALK**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE -- BLESSING OF THE SHAWLS AND SCARVES

#### + THE WORD +

#### Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes,

to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed:

I will go before you and level the mountains,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.

I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun

and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the LORD do all these things.

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

#### Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul is giving pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic pagan environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

#### Please stand and sing.

# Halle, Hallelujah



Music: Caribbean traditional

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

## Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

#### **SERMON**

Tell Us What You Think Pastor Sandy Kessinger

# **SONG OF THE DAY**Please stand and sing.

# Our confidence is in the Lord



#### **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. God of grace, **All** hear 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

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**

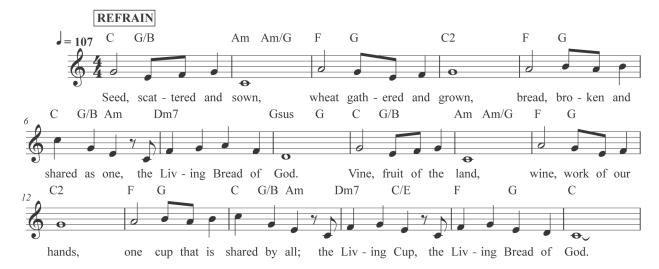
"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" by Hillsong, Raeshawn Parker, alto

#### **OFFERING SONG**

#### **Seed Scattered And Sown**

(as published by International Liturgy Publications)

Words and Music by **Dan Feiten** 



#### **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.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

the least and the nearest handwer

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.



#### 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.



#### **DISMISSAL**

Seminarian Go in peace. Share Christ's love.

All Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

"Simple Gifts" by Douglas E. Wagner, based on a translation Shaker tune, Bell Choir

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

#### **Coins and Foreheads**

It sure would be nice if Jesus had said his followers don't have to pay taxes. It would be wonderful to be able to say when taxes come due, "Gosh, I wanted to pay my taxes, but Jesus said I don't have to, so . . ." Of course, Jesus didn't say that, so we're not off the hook!

But Jesus says a lot more here than just "Pay your taxes." He encourages people to rethink their relationship with money and government in light of their relationship with God. He uses a coin of the Roman Empire to make a point. The coin bears the image of the emperor. So, if the emperor wants his coins back, go ahead and give them to him.

But then Jesus puts a limit on how much allegiance and loyalty to pay to the emperor: "Give . . . to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). Like so many coins that bear the images of great leaders, we are told in Genesis that we each bear the image of God. Give to God what is God's! Give yourself, your heart, your soul, your mind, your will to God! Don't give any of that to those who demand you pay taxes. God has a claim on you, not those in power.

At times we might feel a dilemma when it comes to balancing our loyalties among our government and civil obligations, and our loyalty to God. But the message is clear: We belong to God. God claims each of us as beloved, as valuable, as worth more than coins or gold or dollars.

In baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ on our foreheads. We bear the image of the Crucified One who claims us by grace. At the table we are fed and nourished, welcomed and loved, because of the one who tells us our lives have great worth.

## Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Children are welcome in our worship.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

Email: Church@redeemermclean.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: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

**Next Sunday is Reformation Sunday.** 

Please wear something "red" to represent the Holy Spirit in our midst.

This year's confirmands will be confirmed at the 11 am service - All Are Welcome.

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Mark & Lee Cronin in honor of the wedding of our son Matthew and Nora on October 28.

Creed written by Andreas Wagner Eucharistic Prayer written by Samuel Wells

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