## + Contemporary Worship + At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am October 8, 2023

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



In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

## + WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

#### **PRELUDE**

## **GATHERING SONG**





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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

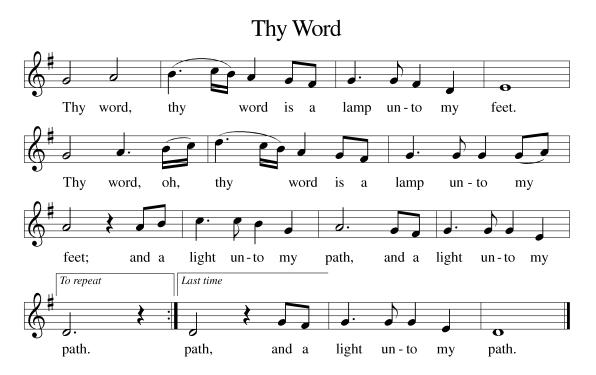
and for all eternity.

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

Pastor Let us pray.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance,

help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All Amen.

#### **TEMPLE TALK**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## + THE WORD +

## Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines:

and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it,

and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,

why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with
briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds

I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts

is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

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

Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader 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 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

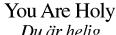
When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

## **SERMON**

## Christ is Our Standard Pastor Josh Wullenweber

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





<sup>\*</sup> May be sung in canon.

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945 Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress in North America, South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

## **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. 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

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.

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

## + SHARING OUR GIFTS +

#### **ANTHEM**

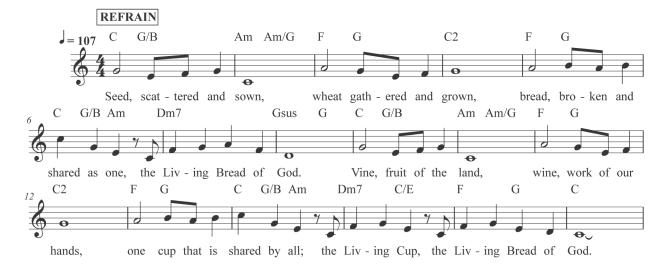
"Build My Life" by Pat Barrett

#### **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.

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.

Pastor 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,

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 Com-

Come, for all is now ready.

Please sit.

All

#### **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.

## We Come to the Hungry Feast



Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943 Music: HUNGRY FEAST, 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

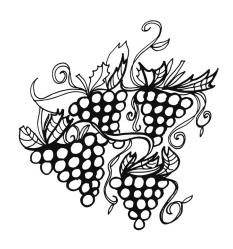
at your banquet table.

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

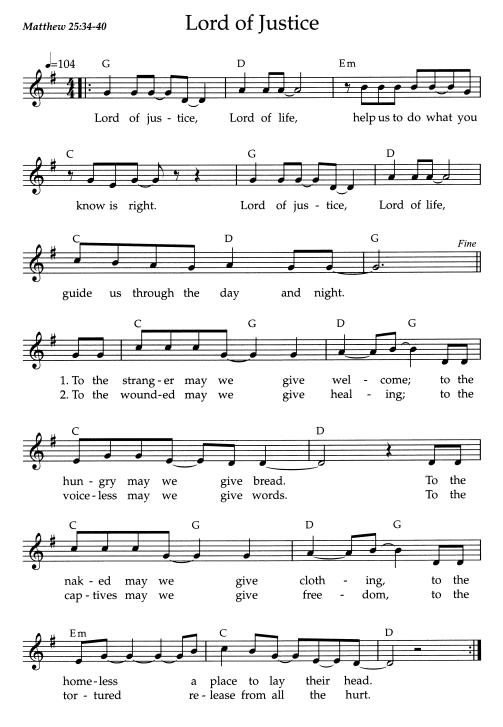
Pastor The God who calls across the cosmos

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*.



WORDS and MUSIC: Larry Olson

© 1989 Dakota Road Music

#### DISMISSAL

Asst. Min. Go in peace. Share Christ's love.

All Thanks be to God.

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

## **Solidarity in Rejection**

People face rejection for all kinds of reasons: race, nationality, gender, native language, political beliefs. Rejection is a painful experience that can wound the soul and crush the ego. Anyone who has faced it for one reason or another knows the deep hurt of rejection.

Jesus faced rejection. He faced people with power who rejected his teachings, his ministry, his identity, and ultimately, his whole self. Even many of his followers had a hard time accepting his teaching and walked away. Matthew tells us Jesus understood his rejection in a significant way: "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" (Matthew 21:42).

Jesus saw that his rejection could be used for God's purposes, shocking as it sounds. The Rejected One becomes God's means of transformation by turning that rejection into an offer of mercy for all, even for those who rejected him. His rejection shows all who face similar fates that even when all others abandon them, God claims them as beloved. Jesus' rejection becomes the opposite: God's acceptance of us.

All who face rejection in this life can trust that Jesus lives in solidarity with them. They can even come to see that God can use their pain and hurt to create something new. Baptized, we live in an unbreakable covenant of acceptance. We are invited to the table of inclusion. This doesn't eliminate the pain or justify the rejection, but it does open up new possibilities for healing and empowerment. Living as siblings of Christ the rejected one, we come to have such bold faith, and it is amazing in our eyes.

## 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:

Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14

The flowers are given to the glory of God
by Karen and Don Miller in celebration and thanksgiving for 35 years of marriage, and
by Dave and Trish Kostelancik in memory of our parents,

Joseph and Ruth Crowley and John and Emily Kostelancik.

Creed written by Andreas Wagner Eucharistic Prayer written by Samuel Wells

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