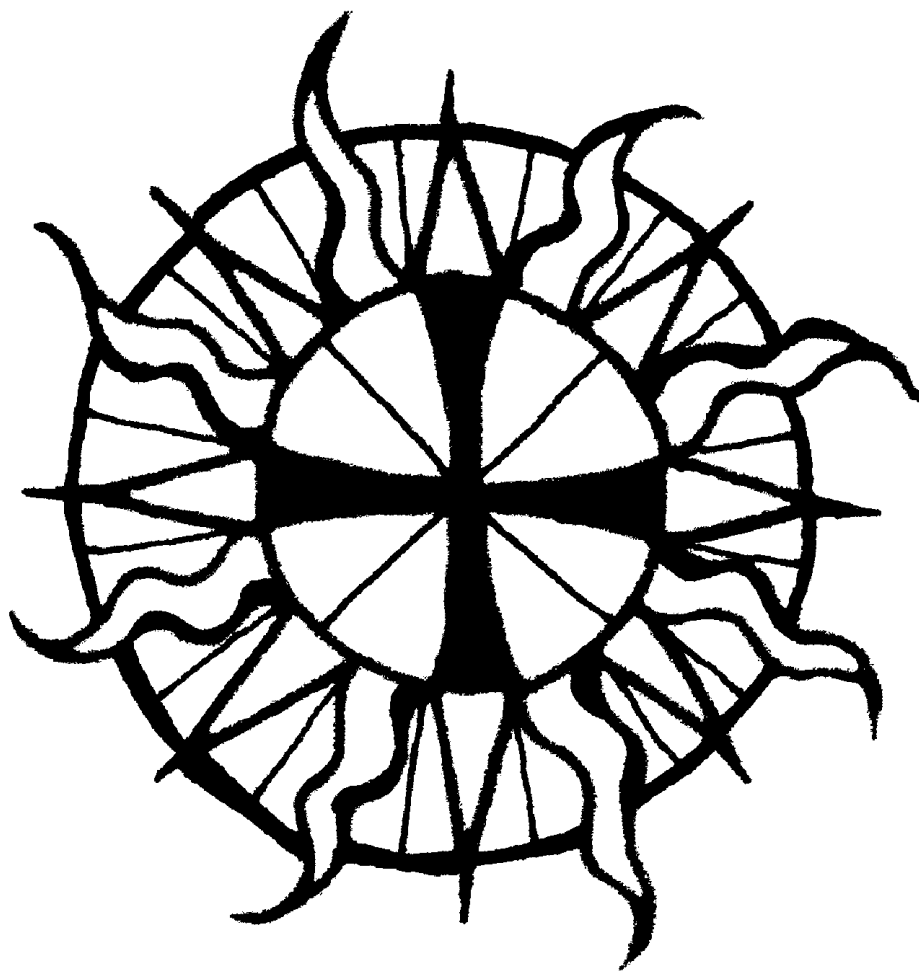


# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 10, 2023

The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



*Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*“Draw us in the Spirit’s Tether” arr. by Robert Lind*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand.*

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor Most merciful God,  
Congregation **we confess that we are in bondage to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.**

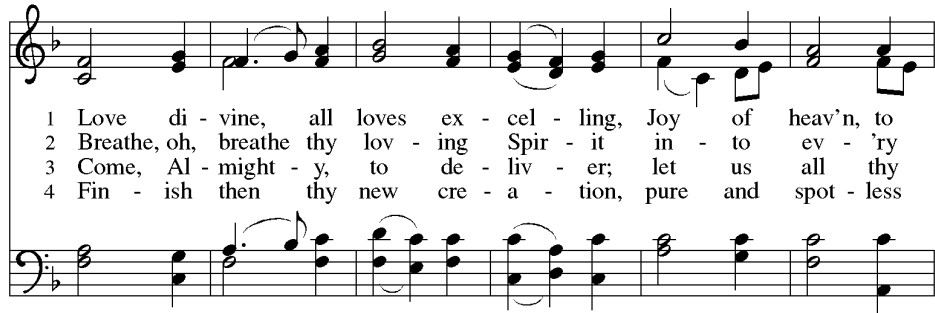
Pastor God, who is rich in mercy,  
loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Congregation **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN: LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING #631

*We invite you to turn and face the cross (as you are comfortable). Please turn to the front of the sanctuary after the cross has passed you. All sing.*

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
Congregation **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*All sing.*

### Now the Feast and Celebration

*Refrain*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



*Refrain*  
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



*Refrain*  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



*Refrain*  
God; to make all things new.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor            The Lord be with you.  
 Congregation   **And also with you.**

Pastor	Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Congregation	<b>Amen.</b>

*Please sit.*

## TEMPLE TALK

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## THE WORD

### Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Reader	Word of God, word of life.
Congregation	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

## Psalm 119:33-40

*Congregation sings words in bold.*



Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it | to the end.  
**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;**  
**I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of | your commandments,  
for that is | my desire.  
**Incline my heart to | your decrees**  
**and not to | unjust gain. R**

Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;  
give me life | in your way.  
**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,**  
**which is for | those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach | that I dread,  
because your judg- | ments are good.  
**Behold, I long for | your commandments;**  
**by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

### Reading: Romans 13:8-14

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader	Word of God, word of life.
Congregation	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please stand and sing.*



The Gospel is announced.

Pastor	The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
Congregation	<b>Glory to you, O Lord.</b>

### Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Pastor	The Gospel of the Lord.
Congregation	<b>Praise to you, O Christ.</b>

### SERMON

***Tell It To The Church***  
***Pastor Sandy Kessinger***



# HYMN OF THE DAY: GOD, WHEN HUMAN BONDS ARE BROKEN #603

*Please stand and sing.*

## God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill  
 2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,  
 3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease  
 4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.  
 5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.  
 for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.  
 from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.  
 Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.  
 give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



## APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor With the whole church, let us confess our faith.  
Congregation **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:*

Pastor Merciful God,  
Congregation **receive our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayer:*

Pastor Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
Congregation trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you always.  
Congregation **And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

## 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.*

## OFFERTORY

*"The Greatest Gift Is Love" by Mark Hayes*

## COME TO THE TABLE

### OFFERTORY SONG

*Please stand and sing.*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

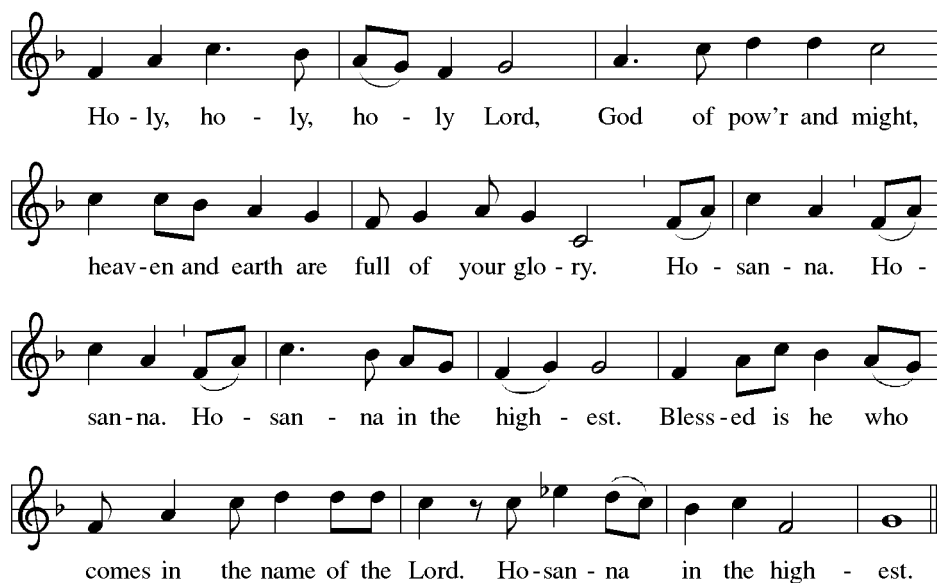
Pastor	Let us pray.
Congregation	<b>God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.</b>

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand.*

Pastor	The Lord be with you.
Congregation	<b>And also with you.</b>
Pastor	Lift up your hearts.
Congregation	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
Pastor	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Congregation	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>
Pastor	It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*All sing.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

Congregation

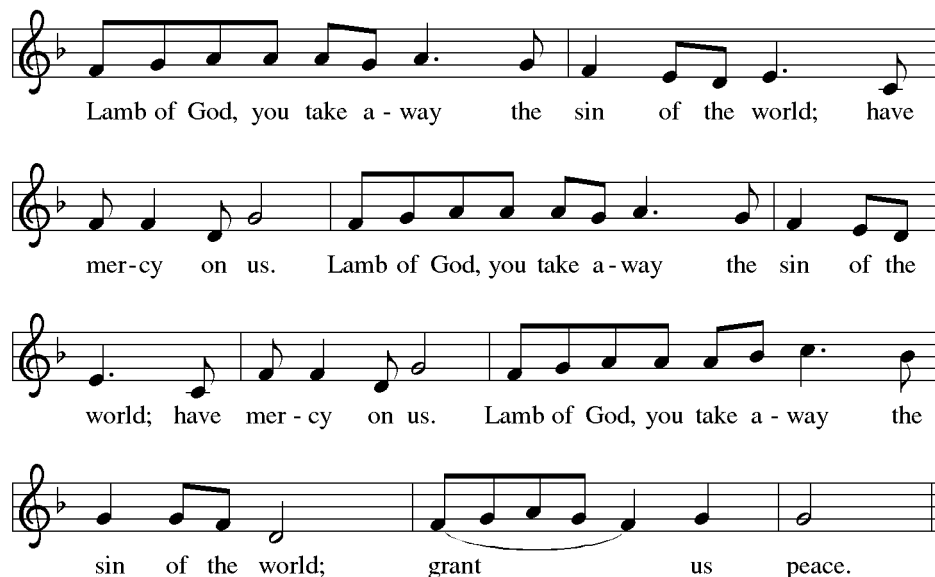
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

*All sing.*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNE

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*We gather around the communion rail either kneeling or standing to receive communion.*

*Communion will be offered by intinction.*

*For those not comfortable receiving from the pastors' hands a separate tray with preset elements will follow.*

*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.*

# COMMUNION HYMN: THERE IN GOD'S GARDEN #342

All sing.

## There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drills, our hu - man -  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

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*Please stand.*

Pastor           The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
                    and keep you in his grace.  
Congregation   **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Please stand and sing.*

### Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor           Let us pray.  
                    Life-giving God,  
                    in the mystery of Christ's resurrection  
                    you send light to conquer darkness,  
                    water to give new life,  
                    and the bread of life to nourish your people.  
                    Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,  
                    that we may show your glory to all the world,  
                    through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.  
Congregation   **Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

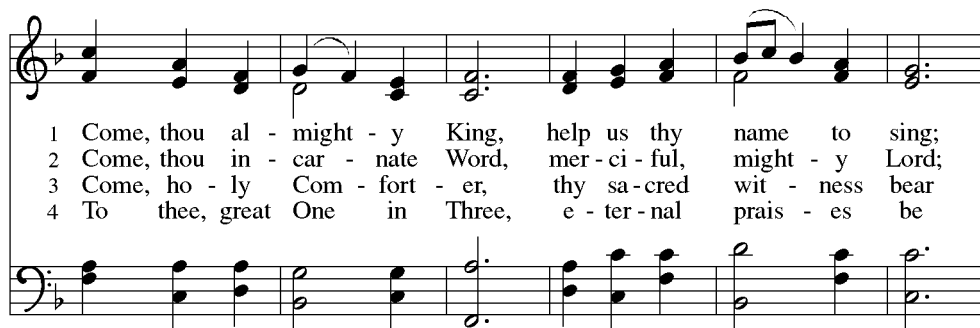
Pastor           Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
Congregation   **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING #408

*Please follow the cross, turning toward the cross as it passes by your pew. As the cross leads, so Christ leads us out into the community to share Christ's love.*

*All sing.*

### Come, Thou Almighty King



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;  
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear  
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -  
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy  
in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in  
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.  
ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.  
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

#### DISMISSAL

Pastor  
Congregation

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE

*"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name", arr by Jason Payne*

### **No One Is Lost to God**

Our relationship to God is bound together with our relationships to one another. We are church together. Whenever hurt or conflict arises in community, Jesus calls us toward reconciliation. But what about those times when, despite our most sincere efforts, the one who has caused us harm refuses to listen? What do we do when it doesn't feel safe to invite them back into relationship? Or what about those times when we ourselves choose to separate rather than return to a community that has refused to believe us?

Sometimes in our quest to do what's right, we might hold so tightly to our checklist for church discipline that we leave little room for grace. In such cases, we might keep the peace or avoid open disagreement without attending to the real wounds at the heart of any conflict. The truth is also that sometimes, whether for our own safety or our own self-respect, we may wisely choose to keep our distance from others who have refused to take to heart the harmful impact of their words or actions. Yet, even when we allow ourselves the space that we need, God remains present.

Jesus doesn't say that whatever we lose on earth will be lost in heaven. The operative word isn't lose, but loose—as in “release,” “set free,” or “let go of.” When we've responded in good faith to the conflicts that arise between us and have exhausted every option for reconciliation, Jesus invites us to tenderly acknowledge our failure, loosen our grip on the situation, and give that one over to God. We should never take this letting-go lightly. At the same time, we can trust that when we are left to release a member of our community into God's mercy, we do not lose them. For no one is ever lost to God.

# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101

Children are welcome in our worship.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

Email: [Church@redeemermclean.org](mailto:Church@redeemermclean.org)

Hearing help available: We have for your use, personal hearing amplification units available in the narthex. Please refer questions or comments to an usher.

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

Next Sunday's Scripture: Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

*The flowers are given to the glory of God by  
Judy and Jim Kuhagen in celebration of their wedding anniversary.*

*Today we are using Settings 3 from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book.*

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