

# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 21, 2025

The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



*As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human,...gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.*



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*"Balm in Gilead" arr. Gilbert Martin*

### 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 **have mercy on us.**  
**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.**

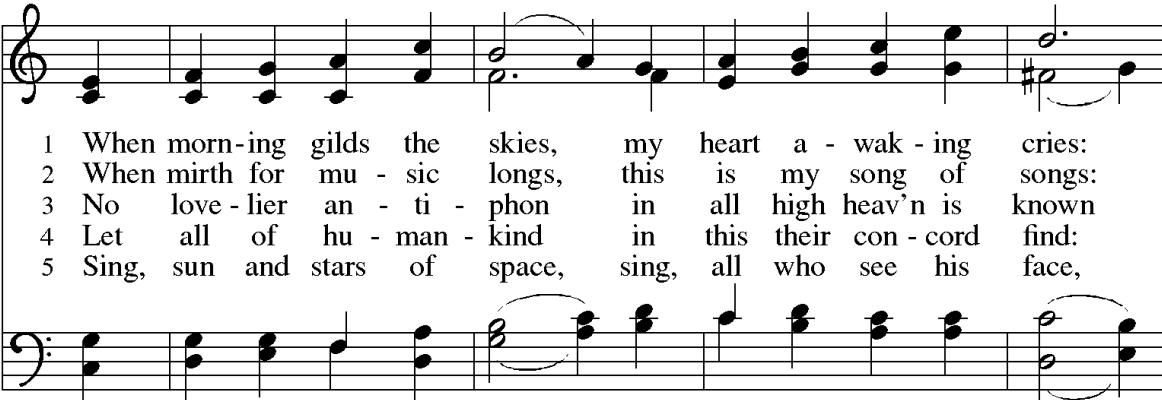
Pastor God, who is rich in mercy,  
loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of + Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in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

Congregation **Amen.**

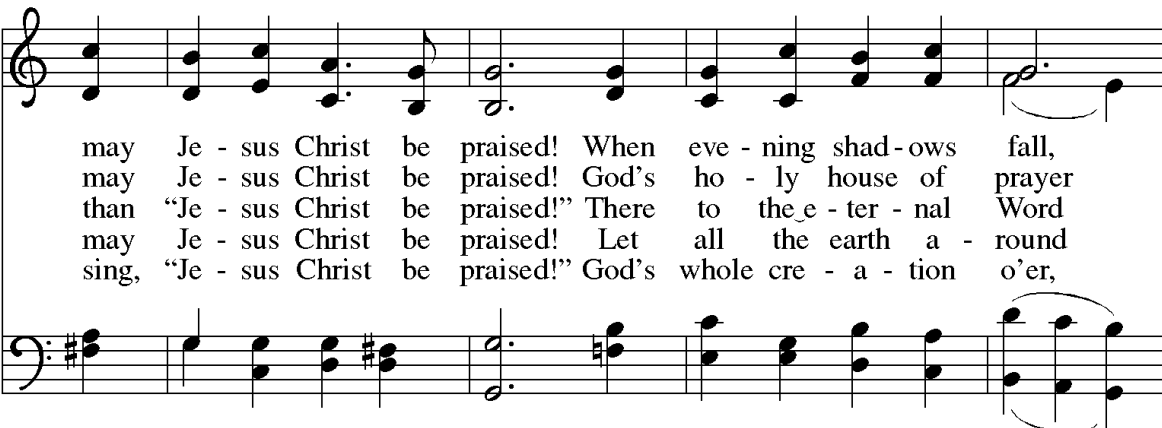
# GATHERING HYMN: WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES #853

*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.*

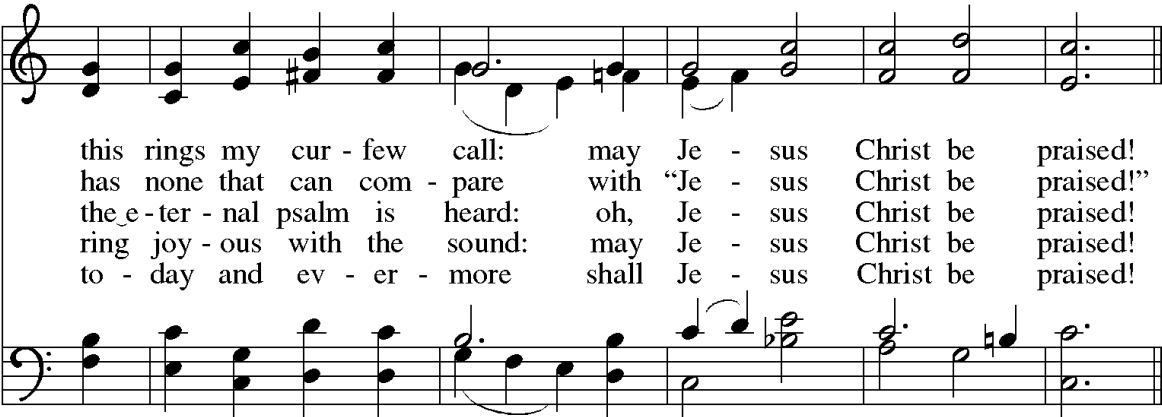
## When Morning Gilds the Skies



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:  
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known  
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:  
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!  
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

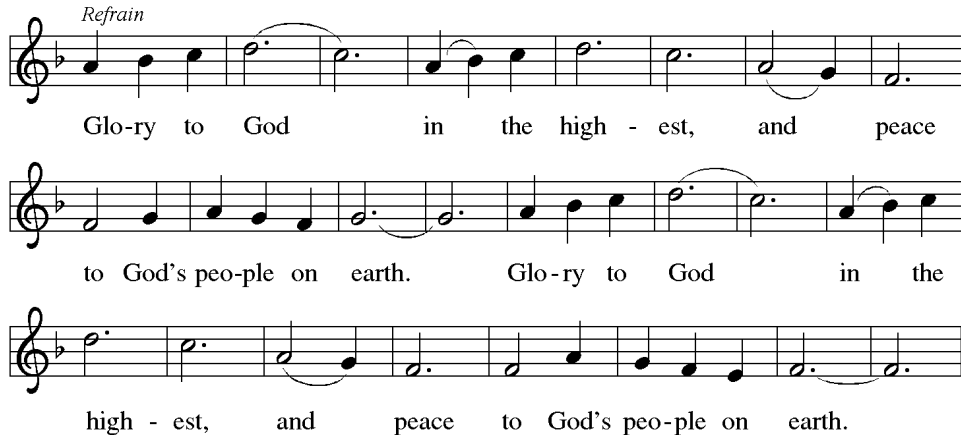
### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

## GLORY TO GOD

*Congregation sings the refrain and cantor sings the verse.*

*Refrain*



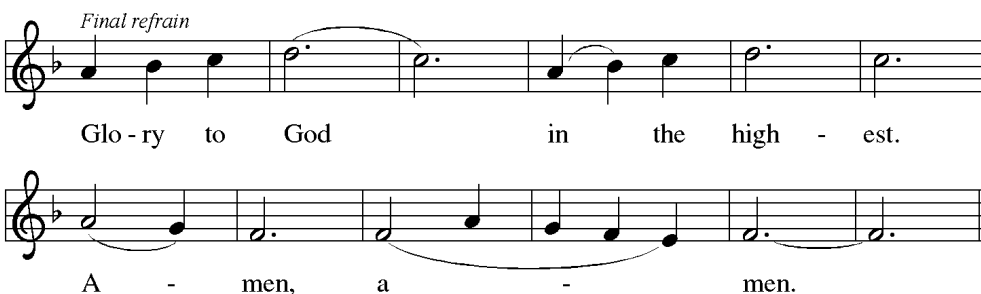
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*Cantor* Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory. *Congregation sings refrain.*

*Cantor* Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer. *Congregation sings refrain.*

*Cantor* For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.

*Final refrain*



*All sing.* Glo-ry to God in the high - est.  
A - men, a - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## THE WORD

### Reading: Amos 8:4-7

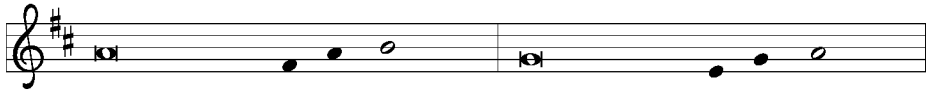
*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
saying, “When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;  
and the sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”  
The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

## Psalm 79:1-9

*Congregation sings words in bold.*



O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have profaned your <sup>1</sup> holy temple; they have made Jerusalem a <sup>1</sup> heap of rubble.

**They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds<sup>1</sup> of the air,  
and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts<sup>1</sup> of the field.**

They have shed their blood like water on every side<sup>1</sup> of Jerusalem,  
and there was no one to<sup>1</sup> bury them.

**We have become a reproach<sup>1</sup> to our neighbors,  
an object of scorn and derision to<sup>1</sup> those around us.**

How long will you be an-<sup>1</sup>gry, O LORD?  
Will your fury blaze like<sup>1</sup> fire forever?

**Pour out your wrath upon the nations who have not known you  
and upon the kingdoms that have not called up-<sup>1</sup>on your name.**

For they have de-<sup>1</sup>voured Jacob  
and made his dwell-<sup>1</sup>ing a ruin.

**Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to meet us;  
for we have been brought very low.**

Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory <sup>1</sup> of your name;  
deliver us and forgive us our sins, <sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

## Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

*The Pastoral Epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;  
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,  
who gave himself a ransom for all  
—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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. Luke.
Congregation	<b>Glory to you, O Lord.</b>

## Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

## SERMON

*“Talking to God”  
Pastor Sharon Core*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Operator" by William Spivery*

## APOSTLES' CREED

Asst. Min.      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:*

Asst. Min.      God of grace,  
Congregation   **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.  
Congregation   **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. 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.*

**OFFERTORY: WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN #686**

*Please stand and sing.*

## We Give Thee but Thine Own

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850



## COME TO THE TABLE

**OFFERTORY SONG**  
*Please stand and sing.*

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Asst. Min.  
Congregation

Let us pray.  
**Holy God, gracious and merciful,  
you bring forth food from the earth  
and nourish your whole creation.  
Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way,  
that all may know your care;  
and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor  
Congregation

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

Pastor  
Congregation

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

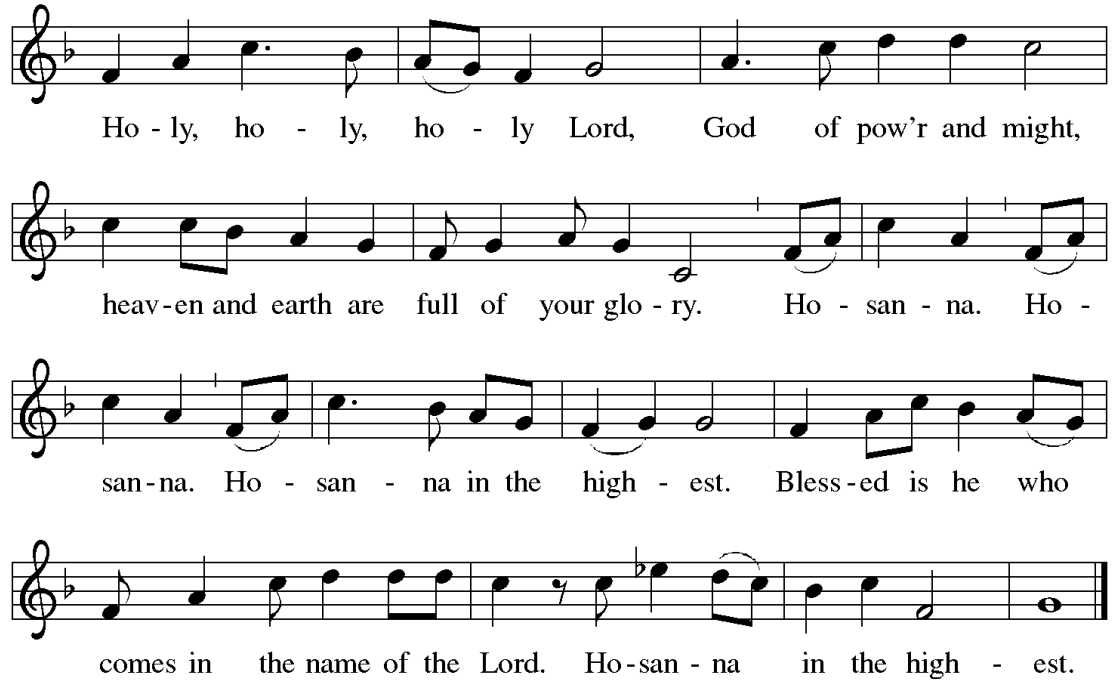
Pastor  
Congregation

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

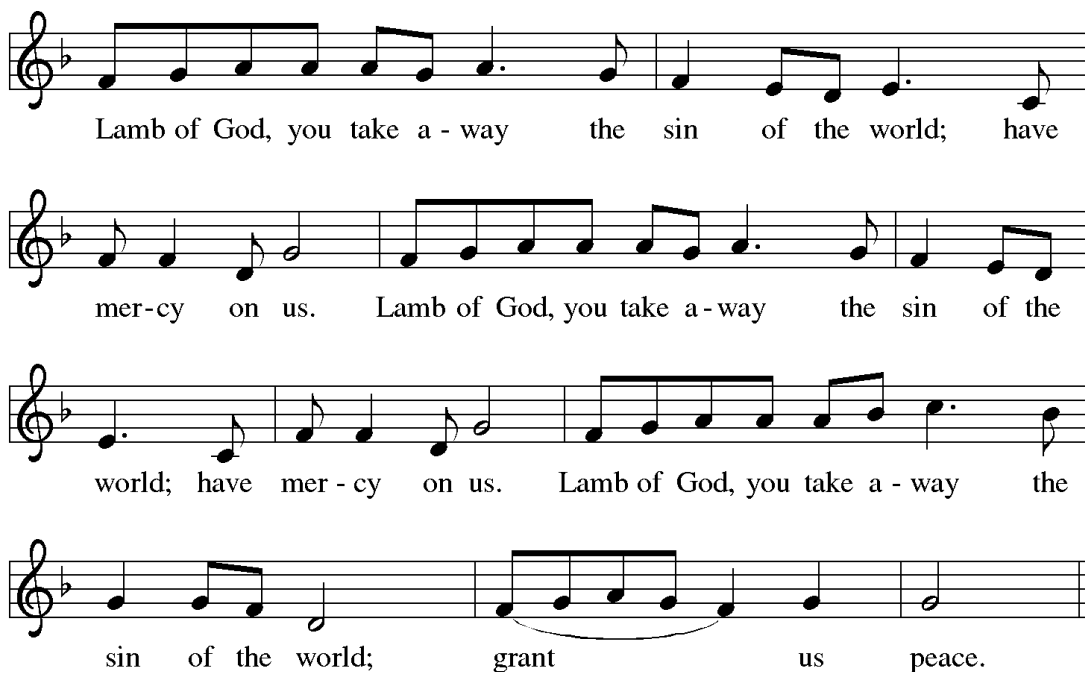
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.*



#### INVITATION TO COMMUNE



#### COMMUNION

***All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.***

*Communion will be offered by intinction.*

*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.*

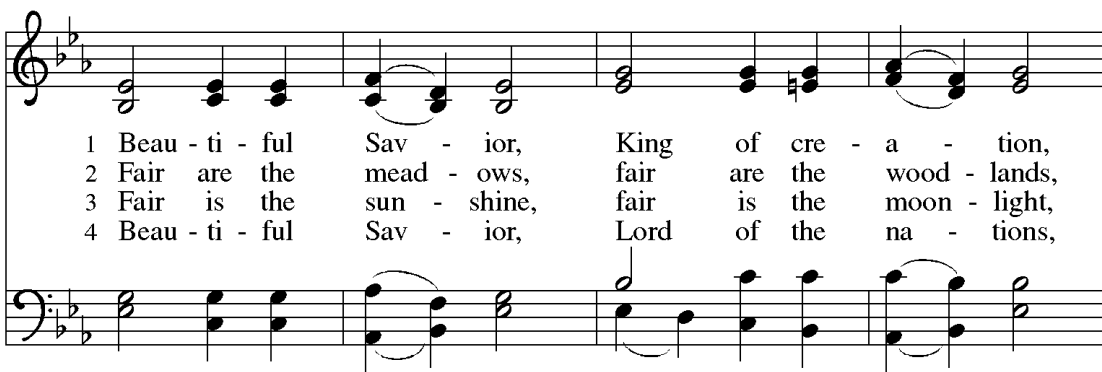
*To receive a blessing, please cross your arms.  
You are an important part of our faith community.*

*In Holy Communion we receive the true body and blood of Christ.*

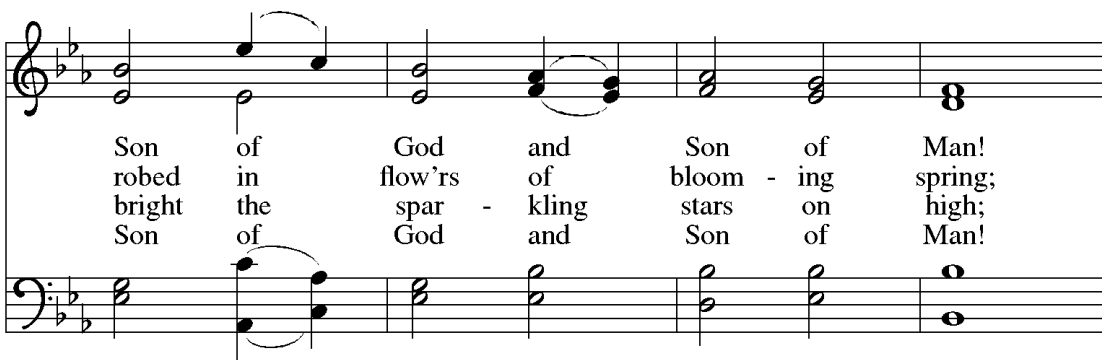
COMMUNION HYMN: BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR #838

All sing.

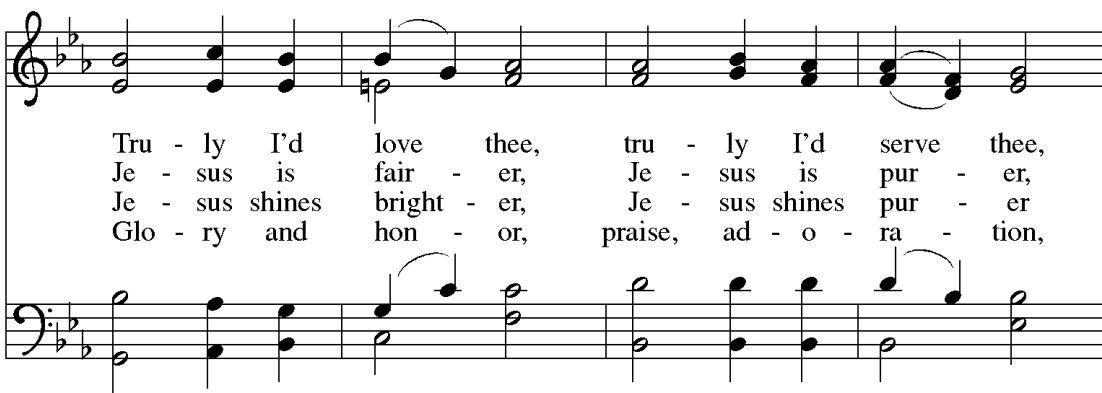
# Beautiful Savior



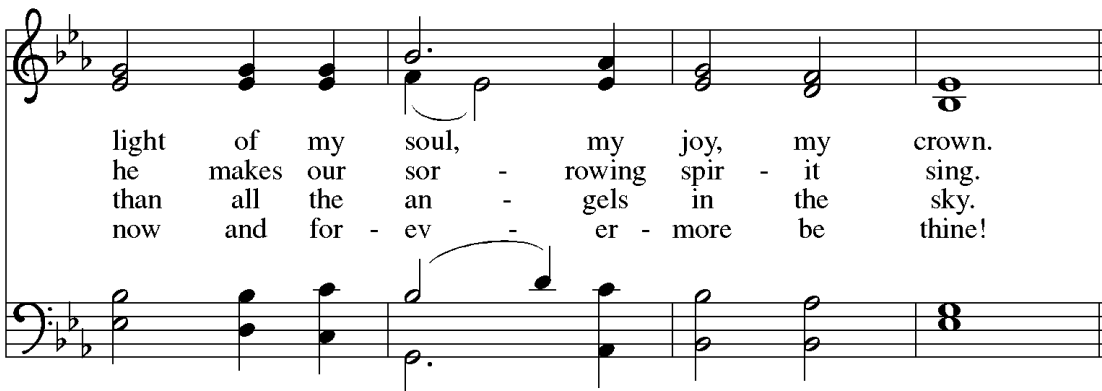
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;  
 bright in the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

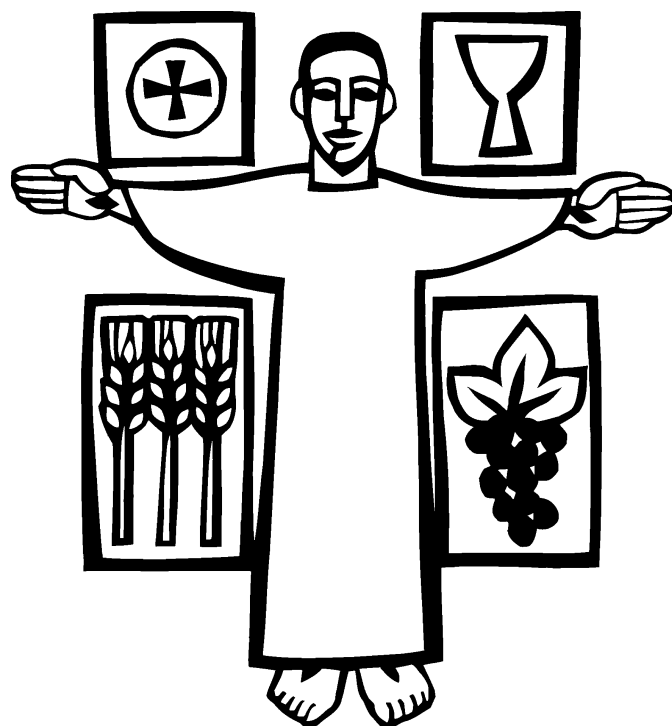


Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.



*Please stand.*

Pastor  
Congregation

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

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Asst. Min.

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.

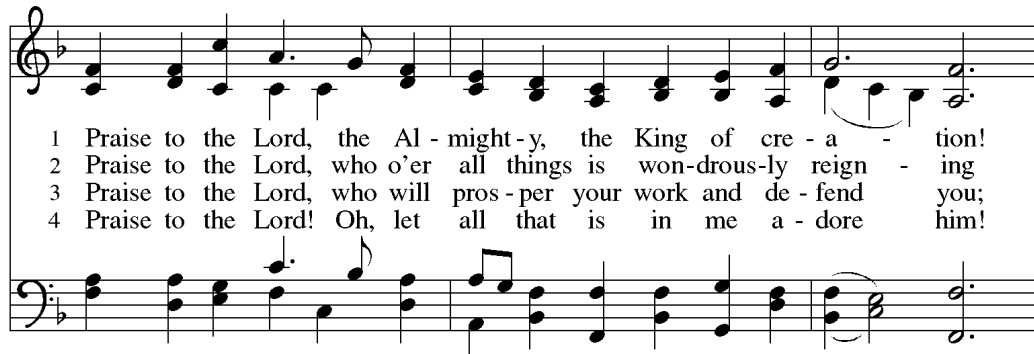
Congregation

**Amen.**

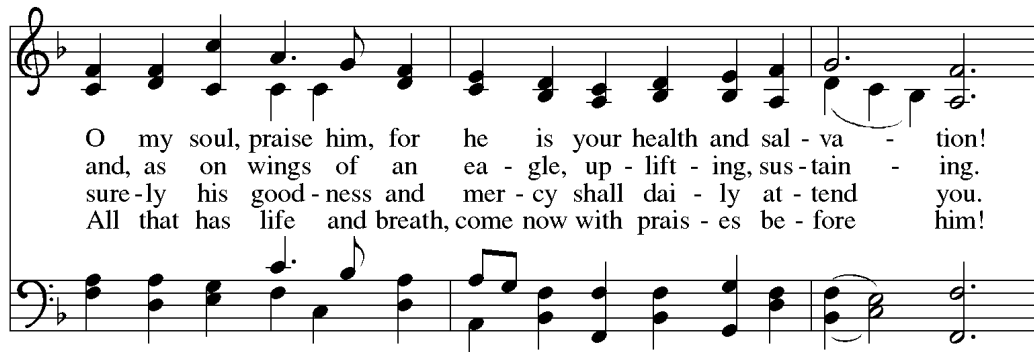
### SENDING HYMN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY #858

*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.*

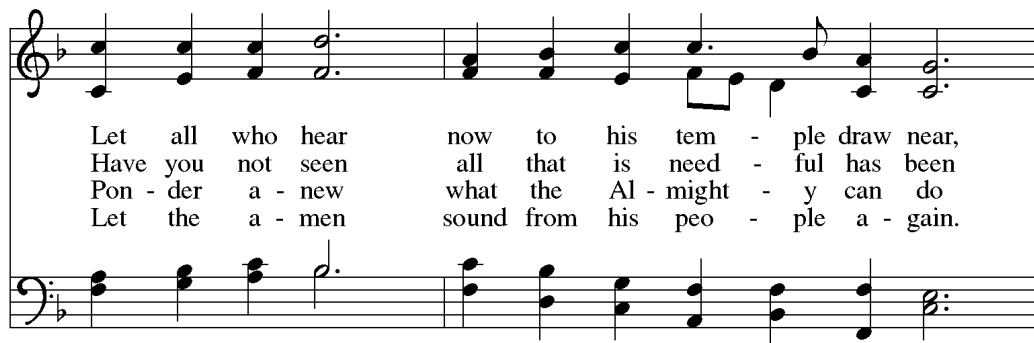
## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



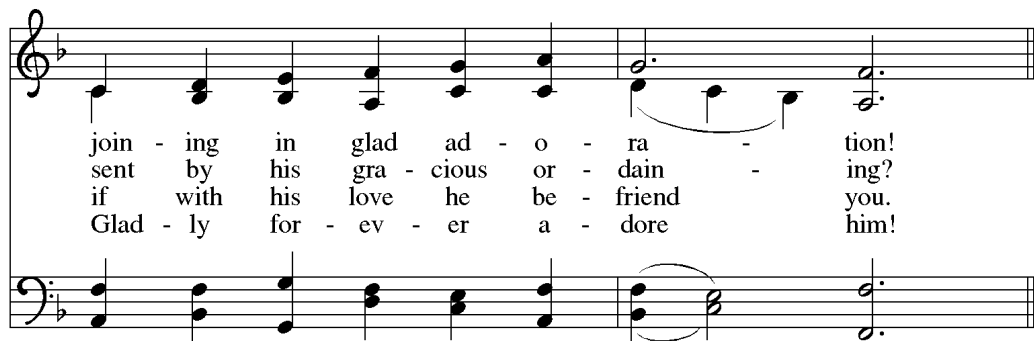
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

## DISMISSAL

Asst. Min.  
Congregation

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

## POSTLUDE

*“Trumpet Tune in D Major” by David Johnson*

### True Riches

Being stuck in unjust systems is exhausting. Perhaps they are designed to frustrate and impede any efforts to undo their power. The manager in Jesus’ parable does what he can to make the most of his precarious position, but his resolution still leaves a lot to be desired. Does the rich man remain in his wealthy and powerful position? What about all the others who still owe the estate? Why does the manager, and not the rich landowner who holds all the cards, become the object lesson?

It seems Jesus is getting serious here about our relationships with money, riches, and power: “You cannot serve God and wealth” (Luke 16:13). That much is clear. But perhaps Jesus is drawing our attention to the larger implications of God’s economy and what it means to lean on one another for the sake of justice in our world. Luke’s gospel began with Mary’s song, after all, extolling the ways the poor will be lifted up in the kingdom Jesus brings. In this new reign, all resources are brought into the service of those who need them most. Faithful living here and now might look different from what we’re accustomed to when we consider what God has in mind, especially when we are used to unhelpful contemporary mantras like “Might makes right” and “Winner takes all.”

True to Mary’s song, Jesus indeed turns our world upside down, which distresses those of us who appreciate good order. But in the end, this turning does what is needed to make the world right. In our world today, we may struggle with the forgiveness of debts and the redistribution of wealth, but Jesus doesn’t. God brings the true riches of justice and love for all and will not fail to do what is needed to make sure every last beloved person on earth has what they need to truly live.

# **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](mailto:church@redeemermclean.org)**

## ***Sunday Services:***

***8:30 and 11 am for traditional services and 9:45 am for the contemporary service***

Next Sunday's Scripture: Amos 6:1a,4-7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

*The flowers are given to the glory of God.*

*Today we are using Setting 3 from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.*

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