

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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

17th Sunday after Pentecost, September 24, 2023

The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Gift of Finest Wheat" arr by Charles Callahan

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: COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME #693

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.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



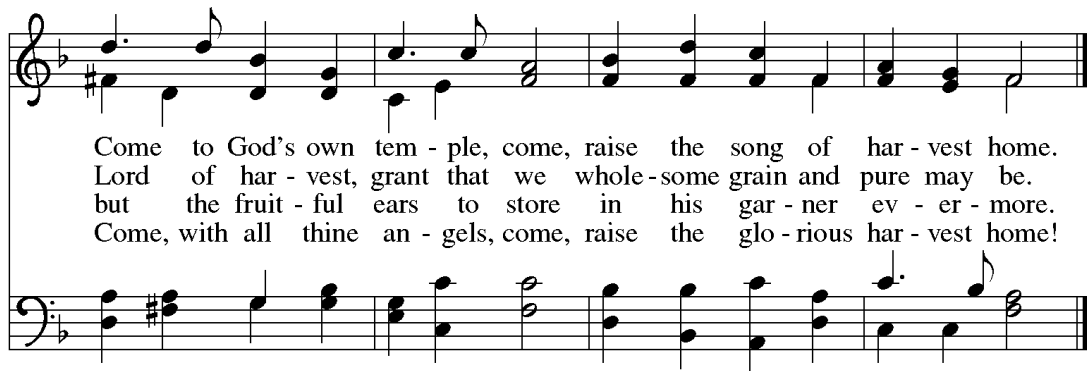
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on

earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Pastor Let us pray.
 Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation **Amen.**

Please sit.

TEMPLE TALK

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



THE WORD

Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?

When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

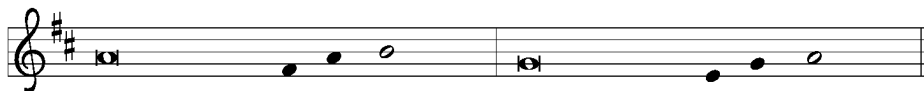
The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

Psalm 145:1-8

Congregation sings words in bold.



I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

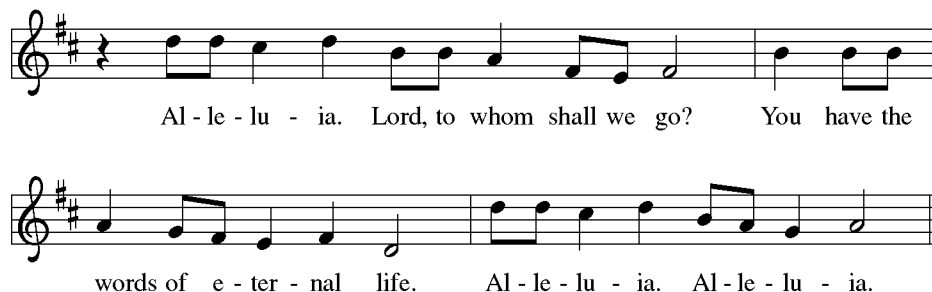
For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand and sing.





The Gospel is announced.

Pastor

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Congregation

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Pastor

The Gospel of the Lord.


Congregation

Praise to you, O Christ.

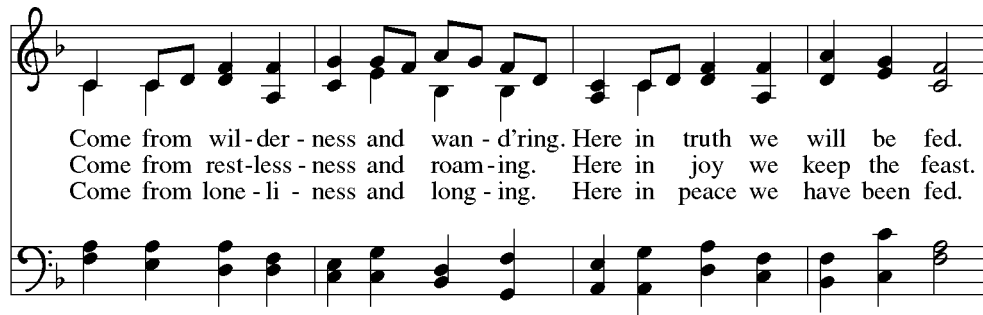
The Laborers in the Vineyard
Pastor Sandy Kessinger

HYMN OF THE DAY: ALL WHO HUNGER, GATHER GLADLY #461
Please stand and sing.

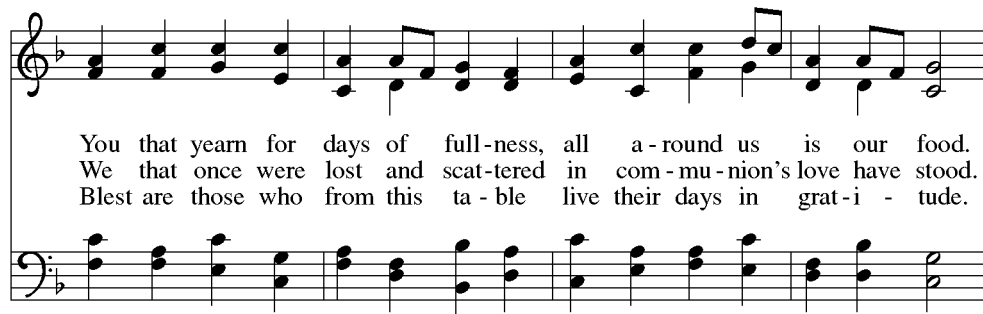
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version
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The 8:30 service continues on page 13.

+ The Baptism of Kira Lydia Jaramillo +
Parents: Heather Hunter and Christopher Jaramillo
Sponsor: Alexander Jaramillo

- Pastor In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.
- Sponsor I present Kira Lydia for baptism.
- Pastor Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire Kira Lydia to be baptized into Christ?
- Parents We do.
- Pastor As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
To live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.
Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?
- Parents We do.
- Pastor Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Kira Lydia in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?
- Sponsor I do.
- Pastor People of God, do you promise to support Kira Lydia and pray for her in her new life in Christ?
- Congregation **We do.**
- Pastor I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- Pastor Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- Congregation **We renounce them.**
- Pastor Do you believe in God the Father?
- Congregation **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**



Pastor Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
Congregation **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.**

Pastor Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
Congregation **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.**

Pastor We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Kira Lydia Jaramillo,
I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Kira Lydia with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Kira Lydia, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever.

Lighting the baptismal candle.

Asst. Min. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Pastor Let us welcome the newly baptized.
Congregation **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share.
Join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

The 11:00 service continues on page 13 with Prayers.

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:*

Asst. Min. 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,
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. Please give as you are able.

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

OFFERTORY


"In Bread And Wine" Southern Folk Hymn: Setting by John Carter

COME TO THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SONG *Please stand and sing.*

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor
Congregation

Let us pray.
**Blessed are you, O God,
maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Please stand.*

Pastor
Congregation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Pastor
Congregation

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

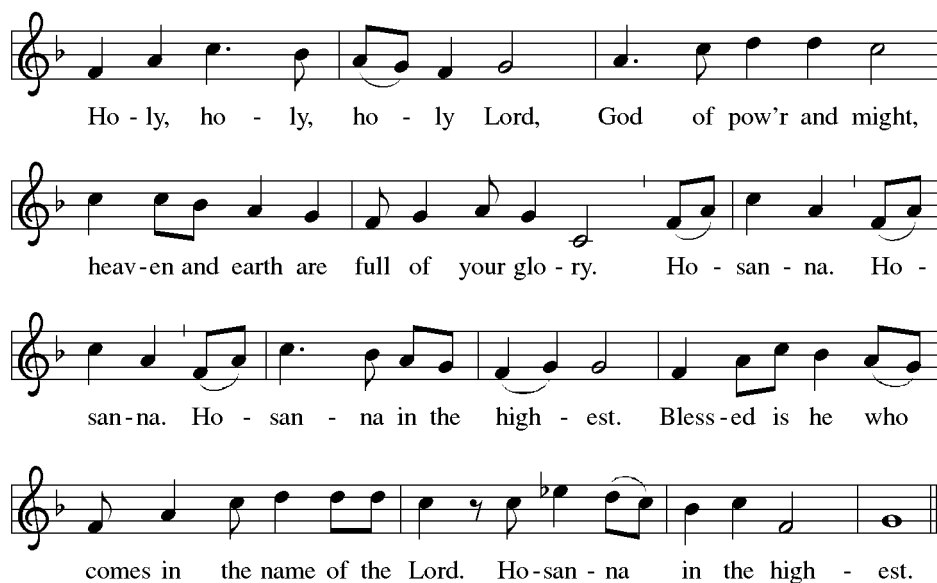
Pastor
Congregation

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

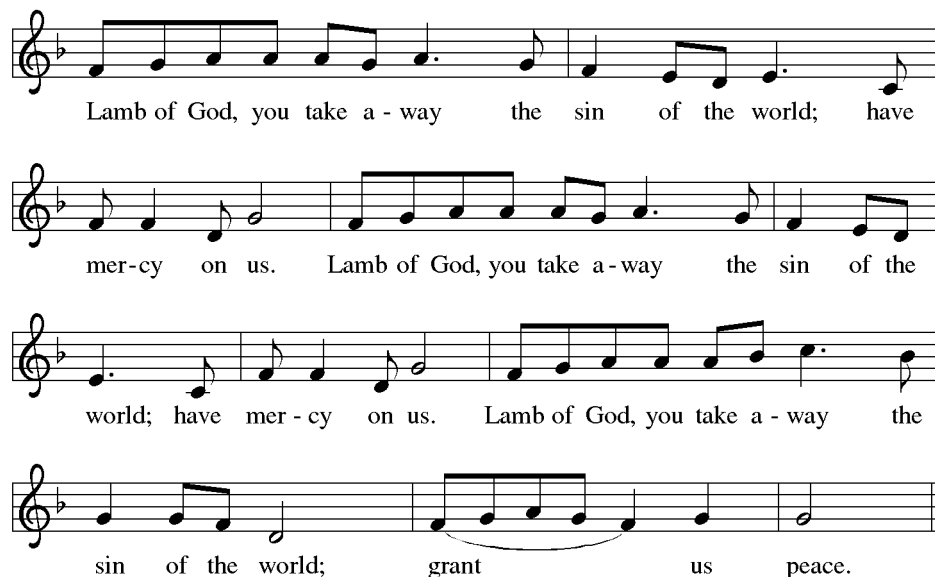
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.



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: GIVE ME JESUS #770

All sing.

Give Me Jesus

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain
Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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.



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.

My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev - er. A - men

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Asst. Min.

Congregation

Let us pray.

**God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim
your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

THE SENDING

BLESSING

Pastor

Congregation

Pastor

Congregation

Pastor

Congregation

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY #588

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.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

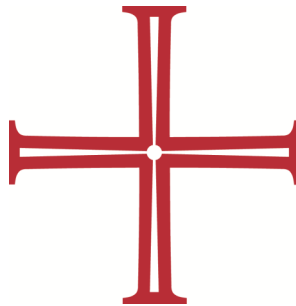
DISMISSAL

Asst. Min.
Congregation

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Processional-Alfred Fedak



Daily Bread for Everyone

We all have a natural sense of justice, and of what is fair. We might easily conflate the two, but justice and fairness don't always lead to the same end. Jesus' parable of the landowner and the workers suggests that God's sense of justice might not seem fair to everyone. Our ideas of what is right are likely upended by the landowner's generosity. He gives to each worker not what they have earned but rather the "daily bread" they need.

Sometimes in the church's ministry, we behave in a spirit exactly opposite that of the parable's landowner, opting to be "fair" above all else. So, for example, the food pantry can insist on the same items in the same amount for everyone, or the soup kitchen rules dictate that everyone get the same thing on their tray. Yet everyone doesn't always have the same needs. What if instead of fairness, we also made a way for generosity to sometimes disrupt the rules? There are good reasons for insisting on fairness. Rules establish helpful boundaries. Fairness can help ensure that when resources are scarce, everyone has a chance to receive something. Yet, in the name of fairness, we can also overlook both God's abundant generosity and the actual needs of others.

Maybe Jesus' parable doesn't mean changing the rules altogether. But maybe it means leaving ample space for those situations in which emulating God's generosity means bending the rules. God's grace frees us from a stubborn insistence on "only what's fair" so that we can care for others with generous spirits. No matter when we come to the baptismal waters, God's word of grace is enough to cover our sins. No matter our circumstances when we are gathered at Christ's table, God's generosity means there is always enough for each and every one of us to receive the daily bread we need.

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

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: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

*The flowers are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Randy Beth Clarke, by her parents.*

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

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