

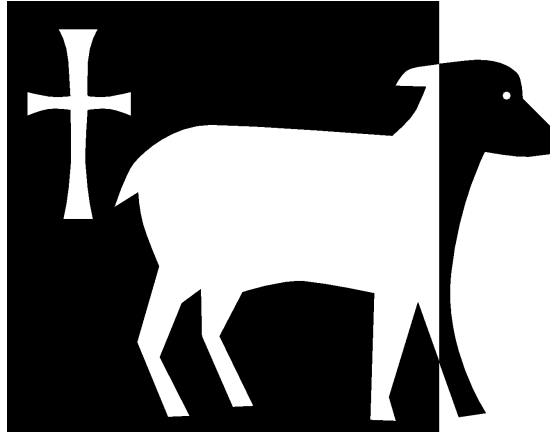
+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am September 7, 2025

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



Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.



+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand.

Based on Psalm 1

Pastor Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord.
 We rejoice and praise Your holy name today, O Lord.
All We take great delight in God's commandments.
 Because you have kept us from a destructive path.

Pastor Light shines in the darkness for the upright.
 We give thanks because Your word gives us hope.
All The righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
 And we reflect on Your word at all times.

Pastor They will never be shaken.
All They will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

Pastor Their heart is steadfast.
All Always trusting in the Lord. Amen! Alleluia!

CONFIRMATION CLASS BLESSING

All Faithful God, in baptism You claimed us; and by Your Holy Spirit
 You are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of
 our calling. We thank you for leading these young people to this part
 of their faith journey. As they gather over the next two years, be in
 their midst. Together with their teachers and families, establish
 them in Your truth, and guide them by Your Holy Spirit, that in Your
 service they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disci-
 ples of Jesus Christ, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor
 and glory, now and forever.
 Amen.

Celebrate the Lord of Love

♩=116-124

E A2 B E

Trade your heav - y heart for a heart of joy;

A2 B

cel - e - brate what God has done.

E A2 B E

Join the song of praise as we gath - er here;

A2 B E A2 B

cel - e - brate the Lord of Love. Je - sus is our Lord;

E A2 B

he is reign - ing here. We de - clare, "His king -

E A2 B E

dom's come." Dark - ness has to flee in his ho - ly light;

A2 B E *Fine*

cel - e - brate the Lord of Love.

A B E A B E

All cre - a - tion sings; hear the o - cean roar.

C#/E# F#m7 B7sus *D.C. al Fine*

Let the earth pro - claim that Christ is Lord.



CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All Amen.

Pastor God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us
from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we
may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All Amen.

Pastor Gracious God,
All have mercy on us.
We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.
We are truly sorry and humbly repent.
In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.
Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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.

All Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our
works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and
finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

All Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



+ THE WORD +

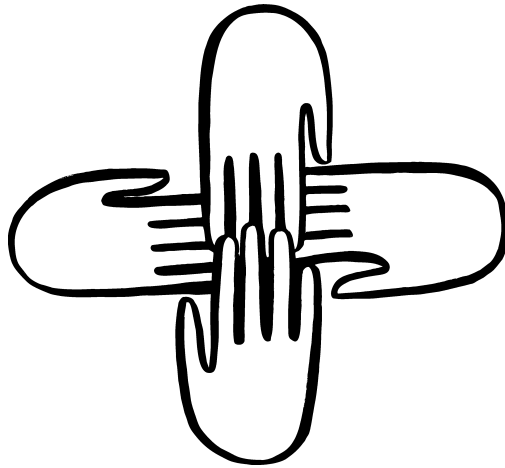
Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11

God teaches Jeremiah a lesson at a potter's shop. Just as a potter may destroy an unacceptable vessel, starting over to refashion it into one of value, so God molds and fashions the nations, including Israel.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

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



Reading: Philemon 1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

Please stand and sing.

I Love You, Lord

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as 108. The lyrics are: "I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to wor - ship you, O my soul re - joice. Take joy, O God, in what you hear, may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear." The chords are: F, Gm7/F, F, Bb, F/A, Gm7, F/A, C7 sus, C, Bb/D C/E, F, Gm7/F, F, F7, Bb, F/A, F sus/G, C7, Bb/F, F.

WORDS and MUSIC: Laurie Klein

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Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

SERMON

Bible Stories *Pastor Sharon Core*

Please stand and sing.

Great is the Lord

Text and music: Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith
Text and music © 1982 Meadowgreen Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

Great is the Lord, he is ho - ly and just, by his

pow - er we trust in his love. Great is the Lord, he is

faith - ful and true, by his mer - cy he proves he is

love. Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry.

Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of praise. Great is the Lord, now

lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great is the

Lord! Great is the Lord!



APOSTLES' CREED

Asst. Min.

All

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns. After each portion of the prayers:

Asst. Min. God of grace,
All **hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayer:

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

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Pastor May the peace of Christ be with you always.

All **And also with you.**

Please greet one another with words such as "God's peace be with you."

Sit

+ SHARING OUR GIFTS +

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.

OFFERING MUSIC

'Hallelujah' by Brian Doerksen

OFFERTORY

Please stand and sing.

We are an offering

Text and music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Bug and Bear Music, admin. Word Music, Inc.

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef. The first staff contains the first line of the song, with lyrics 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our' underneath. The second staff contains the second line, with lyrics 'lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.' underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, C², Dm⁷, C²/E, C/E on the first staff; and F, C/E, Dm⁷, Dm⁷/G, C on the second staff. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over groups of notes in both staves.

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.
All **Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good,
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table
with these gifts of the earth
that we may work for the good of all,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

+ COME TO THE TABLE +

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
All **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 Come, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion will be offered by intinction.

*For those not comfortable receiving from the pastor's hands
a separate tray with preset elements 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 SONG
All sing.

Spirit of Gentleness


Refrain




Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness




call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,




stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.




then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



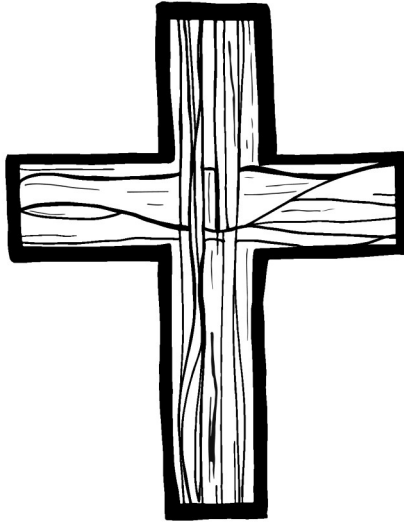
and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
 and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

Refrain



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940
 Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley
 Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



Please stand.

Pastor

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood,
strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.

All

Amen.

PRAYER

Asst. Min.

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.

All

Amen.

+ THE SENDING +

BENEDICTION

Pastor

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

All

Amen.

SENDING SONG
All sing.

Luke 10:25-28

My Life Is in You, Lord

$\text{♩} = 160$

My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my
 hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you. My
 life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my
 hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you. I will
 praise you with all of my life; I will
 praise you with all of my strength, with
 all of my life, with all of my strength. All of my
 hope is in you. you, in you.

Chords: C7sus, F, C, F, Dm, C/D, Dm, Bb, C, Bb, F, C7sus, C7, C7sus, F, C, F, Dm, C/D, Dm, Bb, C/Bb, Bb, F, Csus, Bb, C, F/A, F, Bb, C, F, F, F/A, C, F, D, Gm, Eb, Bb6/D, Csus, D.C. al Coda, CODA, C, Csus, C7sus, F.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Gardner

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DISMISSAL

Asst. Min.

All

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE****What Is Most Important**

When someone comes to be baptized, they are often joined by family and friends who gather around the font and promise to love and support them as they grow in the faith. In the baptismal waters, God does something wonderful and profound: God connects us with Christ's saving grace. In this moment we are made part of a new community that flows from God's incredible love.

How dissonant it is to read Jesus' words from Luke's gospel today with this sort of an occasion in mind. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple" (14:26). How can hating family be a faithful response to God's divine grace and love? How can this be the way to live into the baptismal promises of love and care?

We know that Jesus loves the whole world: every person, creature, and molecule reverberates with God's own heart. Scripture and sermons and songs of the faith proclaim time and again: we all are recipients of God's love! And when we are baptized, we are unapologetically claimed as God's beloved. Such belovedness is the very foundation of our identity in faith.

Perhaps we can take Jesus' words here seriously without taking them literally: Christ's love for us is more important than even our closest ties to friends, family, or chosen family. Christ's love is more important than any paycheck we receive or how much cash we keep in our pockets. Jesus prioritizes life-changing love over all other loyalties we might have. When we are baptized, our lives are grounded in this countercultural compassion, justice, and care. Our relationship with God may indeed strain some of our other relationships, but perhaps it is exactly the sort of love that renews our hearts and truly transforms our world.

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.

Email: church@redeemermclean.org

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

Sunday Services:

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

Next Sunday's Scripture: Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

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