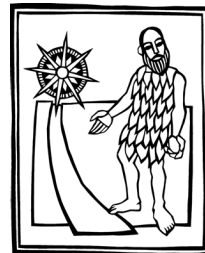


Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025 + 9:00 am



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue - Racine, Wisconsin 53403
(262) 634-7998

<https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine>
<https://www.racinelcredeemer.com>



We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Ojéhéthi Šakówinj Kickapoo, and, Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.

*Hymns marked as ELW may be found in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal and hymns marked as WOV may be found in the blue With One Voice hymnal. Assembly responses are in **bold typeface**.*

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*The second candle of the Advent Wreath is lighted as a blessing is read. As the blessing concludes the Assembly responds: **Amen**.*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

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

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves

for the peace and security only you can provide.

We reach for swords and spears,

reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.

We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance,

and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.

Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us,

that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

✚ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

"O Day of Peace" ELW #711



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de-vour the small;



guide us to jus-tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self-ish schemes.
as beasts and cat-tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en-vy find re-lease,
Then en-e-mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;



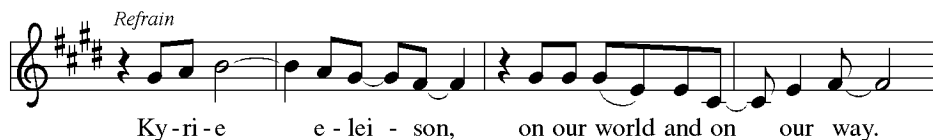
till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Greeting

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

And also with you.

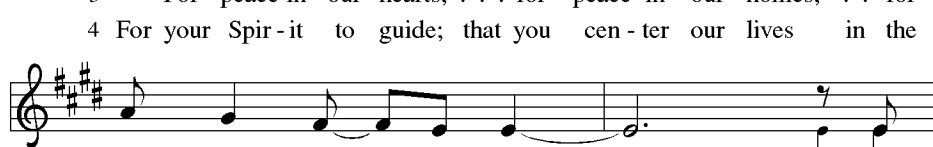
Kyrie



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

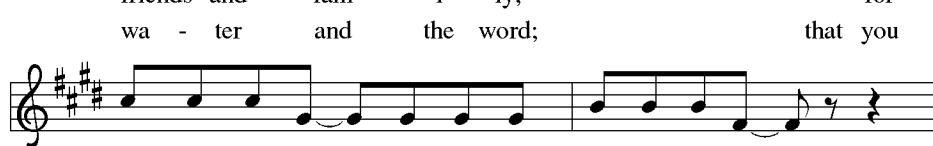
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

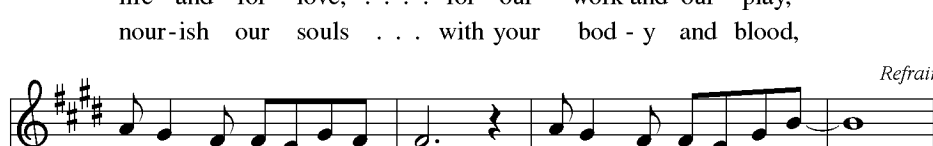
wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day there will stand as a signal to the peoples the root of Jesse, of whom the nations shall inquire, and whose dwelling shall be glorious.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.***

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel; you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A - | men. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jewish people on behalf of the truth of God in order to confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹and in order that the gentiles might glorify our merciful God. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles, and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again it is said, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with the people of God”; ¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise the Lord”; ¹²and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in whom the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May 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.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.***

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

²“Repent, for the dominion of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of the Lord.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

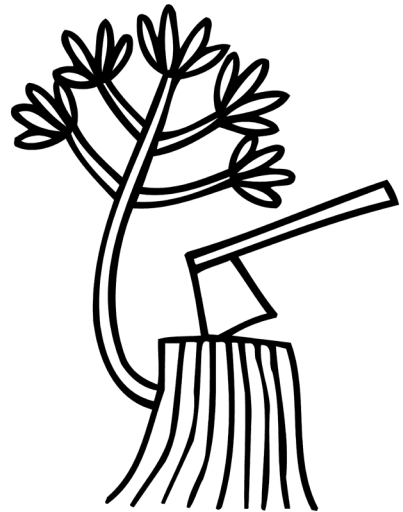
⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



Hymn of the Day

"Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW #264



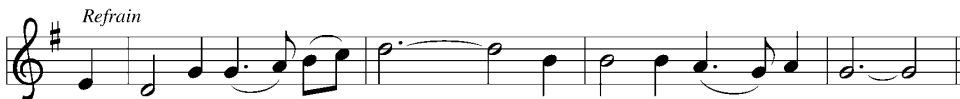
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Creed

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 of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.***

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Linda Bagley, Carmen Falk, Tom Johnson, Mario Miranda, Lynda, Estie Marnell, Sheila Fair, Cherie Julius, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Missy Hoffman, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

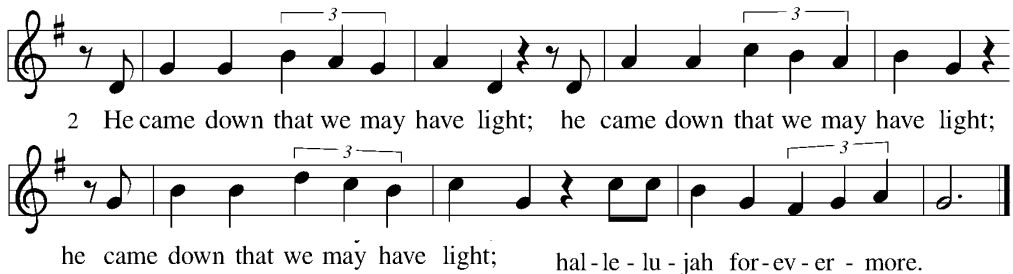
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering



*There are many ways to give to support Redeemer! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the left with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). **Thank you for your generosity!***

Offering Song



2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er - more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Nourishing God,

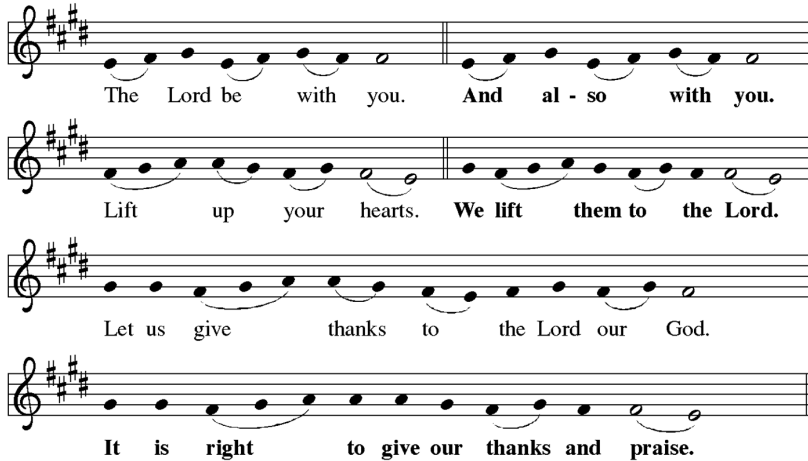
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the world

signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

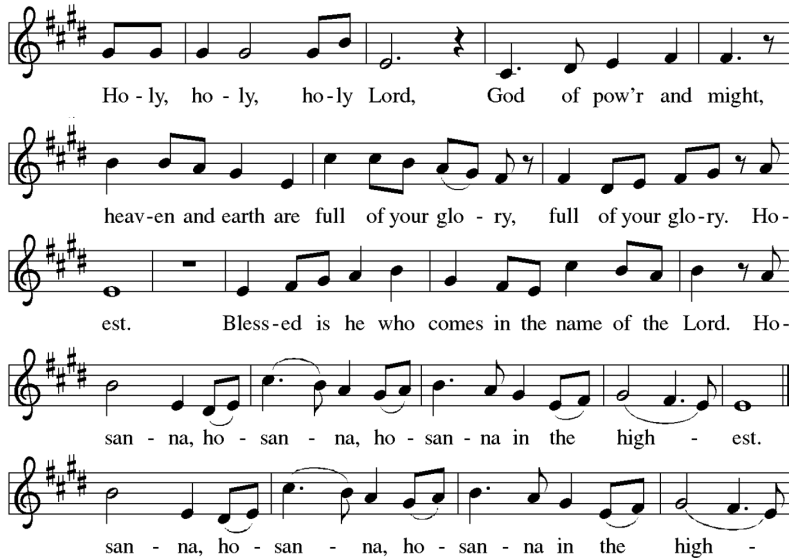
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presiding Minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -

est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -

The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.

The Assembly responds when prompted:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

....

We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

...

Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

*The prayer concludes: **Amen.***

Lord's Prayer

Feel free to pray this Ecumenical Lord's Prayer, or the more traditional version, or heck, pray it in a different language if you know it!

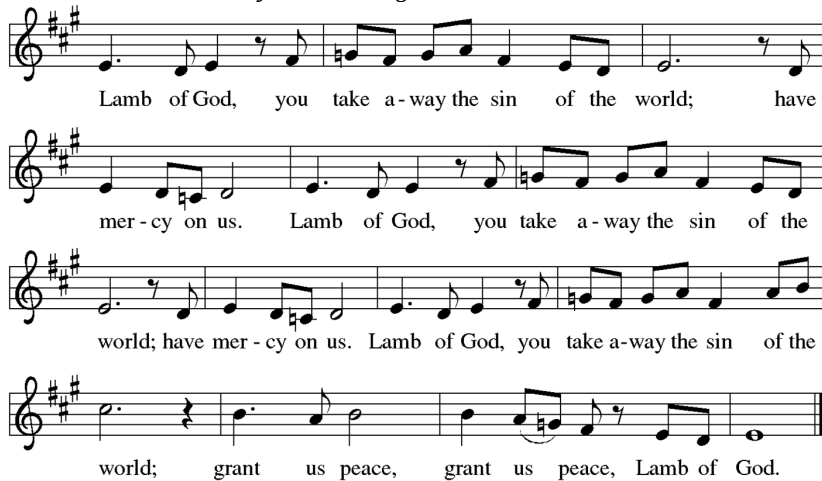
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the music.

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution Song

"Savior of the Nations, Come" ELW #263



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won-drous birth—oh, won-drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van-quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

**Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

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

"Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus" ELW #501



Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

Music: WERDE MUNTER, Johann Schop, 1600–1665

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake..

Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:

The Rennock Family

In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received

Usher:

Linda & Kevin Rattle

Assisting Minister:

Lori Rennock

Advent Wreath Lighting:

The Rattle Family

Reader:

Damian Cook

Altar Guild:

Jennifer Dustman & Jan Brandies

Musician:

Paul Berge

Pastor:

The Rev. Matt James

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Stewardship Message

Thank you to all who have submitted their pledges for 2026!
If you have not submitted yours, there is still time! There are additional pledge sheets in the table in the Narthex.
Thank you for your ongoing support of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and our mission in the world!

**ASK
ME
WHY**



Did you know!?

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

If you are at least 70 ½ years old, there is an alternative way to give to your church or your favorite charity. This is called QCD. This is where you withdraw funds from your traditional IRA through your financial advisor and you are not taxed on the distribution of those funds. Check with your financial advisor, but, in most cases, you sign a form and put in a request with the dollar amount and name of the church or charity. A check is made out to the church or your charity and mailed to you for you to give to the church or charity. You can request this each time you want to give whether it be monthly, quarterly, yearly, etc. And, for those who are at least 73 years old, QCD's count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. Just an option for us older folks and you won't be taxed on your withdrawal. Again, check with your financial advisor for more details.

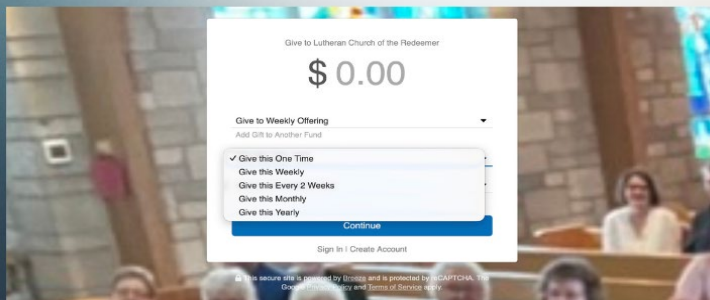
Want to Simplify Your Giving to Redeemer!?

Sign up for automatic giving!

***You can have your offering
automatically deducted from your
checking account or your
credit or debit card!***



***Scan the code above or
visit www.tinyurl.com/give2lcr to
sign up!***





Worship Time Moving to 9:30am!

Thank you to all who responded to our worship time survey!

At the November Council meeting, the Church Council decided to experiment with our worship time. In January and February we will move to a later worship start time, 9:30am, to see if that might help others to come to worship more regularly.

We will evaluate whether to make a permanent change when council meets in March.



Christmastide Worship

Christmas Eve: 4pm

Festive Worship @ Redeemer

First Sunday of Christmas, December 28th: 9:30am

Joint Lessons + Carols @ Bethania Lutheran Church

