

# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

+ June 21, 2026 +  
10:00 am



## Redeemer Lutheran Church

300 O'Neal Road  
Greer, South Carolina  
Office (864) 877-5876

## GOD COMES FIRST

God is, the theologians say, transcendent – beyond us, always exceeding our easy grasp. Recognizing God’s awesome transcendence brings a reevaluation of other values. The God of vertigo-inspiring infinitude is also the God who know the hairs of our head. Trusting this God, fear is defanged and faith becomes a sort of courage. We live in faithful relationship to the hair-counting God as we joyfully “acknowledge” the one who acknowledges us. And as we do so, reveling in the intimacy of God’s loving regard for us, other relationships, even familial ones, take on a different cast. God comes first, we realize, not only in priority, but ontologically, “in the beginning” (John 1:1). Before the God who is at once gracious and transcendent, we “lose” our lives and discover the true life in following the way of Jesus the crucified Son.

Spreading the Gospel of Jesus can feel radical in an increasingly divided and angry world. This work will not always be positively received, but it is still crucial for the world. In the book *The Courage to Be Disliked* (Ichiro Kishimi and Fumitake Koga [New South Wales, Australia: Allen & Unwin. 2018]), the authors use the work of multiple psychologists to break down how we can do impactful work while maintaining our own inner peace and joy. We also must remember that God does not leave us or forsake us and, in fact, encourages us to continue to love each other and work for justice and peace.



Ministers  
Pastor  
Parish Administrator  
Director of Music Ministries

The People of Redeemer  
The Rev. Elise T. Stringer  
Mrs. Jackie Pitts  
Mrs. Donna Cotter

**Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church in the name of Christ our Lord.**

**WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US** this Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. It is our hope and prayer that the God who destroyed death and made new life possible on this day will touch and transform your life for all the days to come. If you are a guest, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex. If you have any questions, our ushers will be happy to help you.

**IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME**, we invite you to consider making Redeemer that home. For more information about Redeemer Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, please speak with Pastor Elise or contact Jackie Pitts at (864) 877-5876.

**GOD DOES NOT PROMISE THAT THE PATH OF THE DISCIPLE WILL BE EASY.** Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

**WE ENTER THIS SANCTUARY WITH REVERENCE FOR GOD  
AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE IN PRAYER.  
PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

*The prelude is a time for QUIET reflection and prayer.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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

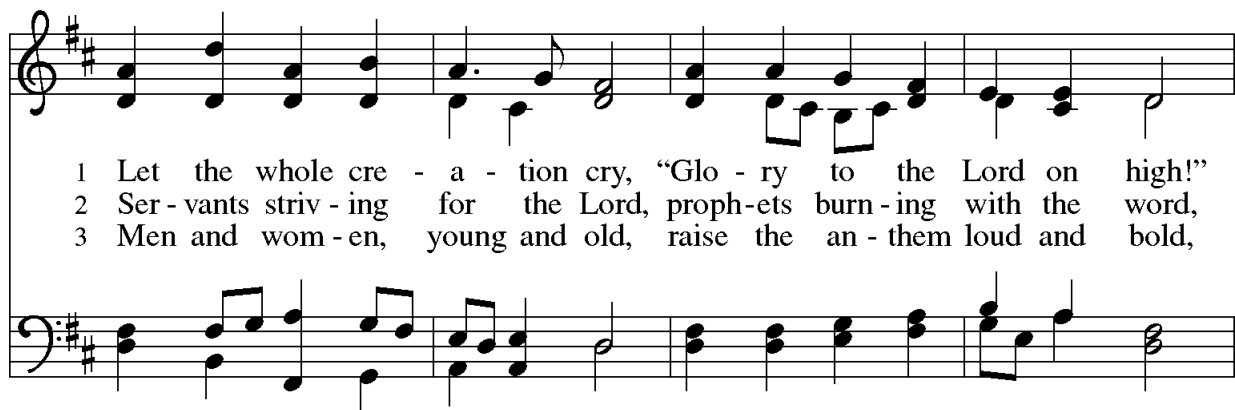
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

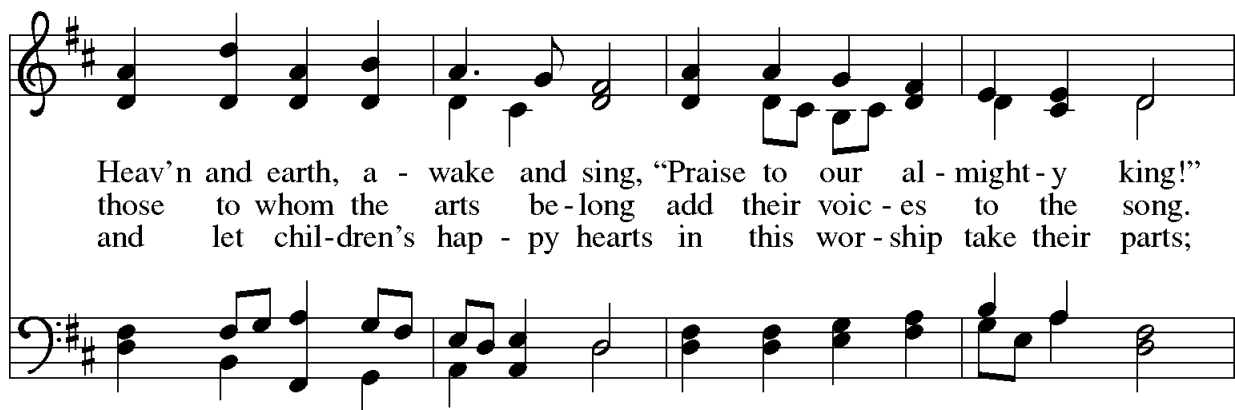
**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.**

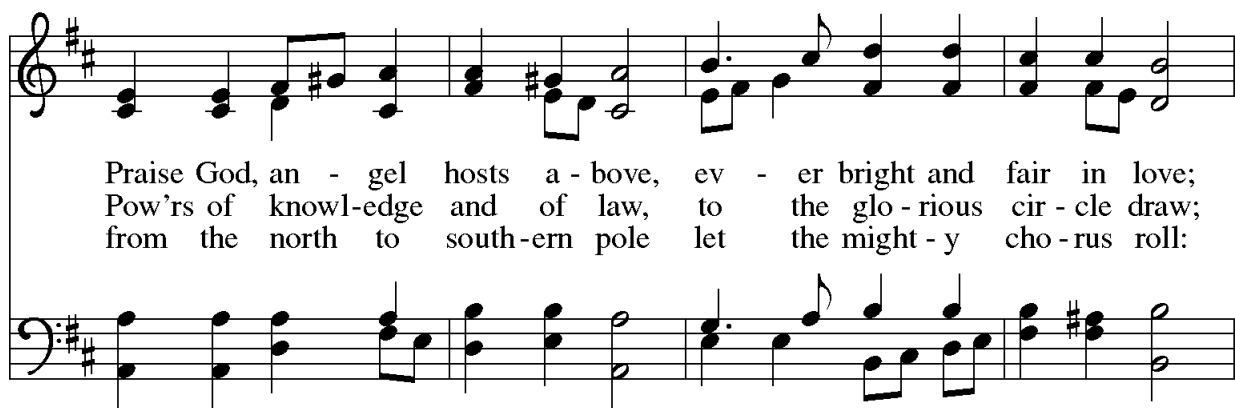
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



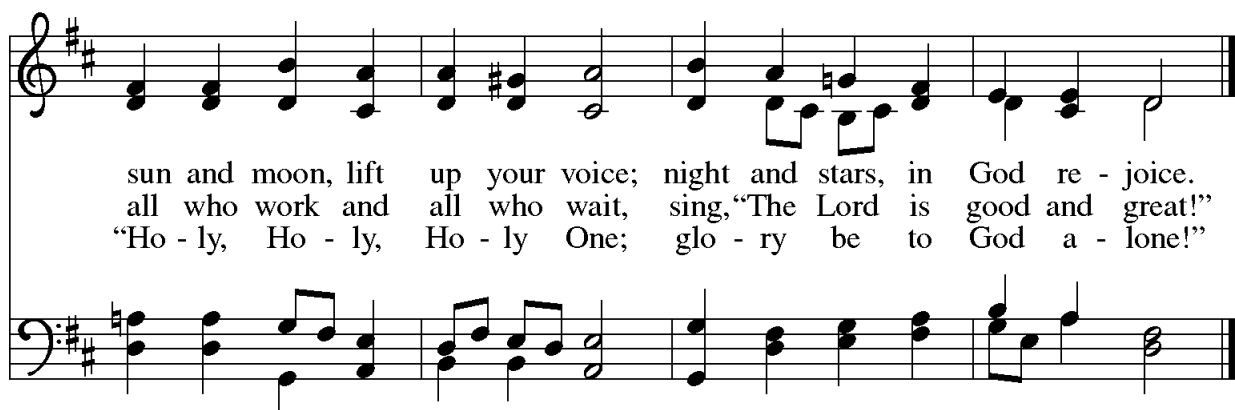
1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"  
 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,  
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"  
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.  
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
 Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"  
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*We Sit*

## VBS PRESENTATION AND CHILDREN'S SERMON

**Pastor Elise Stringer**

### WORD

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands. (not read aloud)*

A reading from Jeremiah Chapter 20:

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. <sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out; I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. <sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him." <sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. <sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous; you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. <sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 69:7-10; 16-18**

*Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind. (Ps. 69:16)*

- <sup>7</sup> Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.
- <sup>8</sup> **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**
- <sup>9</sup> Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
- <sup>10</sup> **I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.**
- <sup>16</sup> Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn to me.
- <sup>17</sup> **Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**
- <sup>18</sup> Draw near to me and redeem me;  
because of my enemies deliver me.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11**

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin. (not read aloud)*

A reading from Romans Chapter 6:

<sup>1b</sup> Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! <sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup> “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, <sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup>“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

**THE SERMON**

**Rev. Elise Stringer**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION*  
*(printed on next page)*

**ELW #796**



Roman was astonished at the size of the pizza for VBS. Brenda had a hard time getting it through the door!

# How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

## APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' 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

*Offered by the Assisting Minister*

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression in all forms. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering especially those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

*We share a sign of peace with others as we are comfortable. We sit.*



Lily Grace reminding Henry that he is “a Child of God and He loves you very much”.

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

MUSICAL OFFERING

Donna Cotter, Organist

OFFERING HYMN

### 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.

OFFERING PRAYER

*Offered by the Assisting minister and congregation.*

Let us pray: **Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The Presiding Minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

## PREFACE

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW #207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover  
from death to life, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:*

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast! **Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN:

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*Congregation is encouraged to sing.*

BORNING CRY

ELW #732

THE SON OF GOD, OUR CHRIST

ELW #584

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*Please stand.*

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Offered by Assisting Minister.*

Let us pray: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## REDEEMER'S MISSION

Redeemer's Mission is: **A lifelong family ministry of God's love!**

**SENDING HYMN**    *IF YOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU*  
*(printed on next page)*

ELW #769

## DISMISSAL

*Offered by Assisting Minister.*

Heaven has come near. Go, share the Good News! **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

Donna Cotter, Organist

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Greer, SC

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# If You But Trust in God to Guide You

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less  
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and  
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's  
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -  
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.  
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

## Serving Today

<b>Ushers:</b>	Gordon Johnson and Aaron Cornwell
<b>Greeters:</b>	Phil and Debbie Rhoads
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Al Ludwigson
<b>Lector 1:</b>	David Henderson
<b>Lector 2:</b>	Phil Rhoads
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Henry Cotter <i>(needs a sub)</i>
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Cooper Jackson <i>(needs a sub)</i>
<b>Cantor:</b>	Chuck Pegram
<b>Counters:</b>	Chuck Pegram and Courtney Childers
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Brenda Van Putten
<b>Flowers:</b>	Given by Jeri Kleckley in honor of Father's Day and in honor my husband, Sam Kleckley and our son, Sam E. Kleckley.
<b>Sheepdog:</b>	BJ King, Beto Damien, and JJ Johnson
<b>Nursery:</b>	Chrissy Bristow and Aurie Dill

## Serving Next Week - June 28, 2026

<b>Ushers:</b>	Tom Lewis and Phil Rhoads
<b>Greeters:</b>	John and Sharon Fouke
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Pat Kirchman
<b>Lector 1:</b>	Janet Thomas
<b>Lector 2:</b>	Kyle Henderson
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Poppy Lanning
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Aurie Dill
<b>Cantor:</b>	Heather Hester
<b>Counters:</b>	Cyndi Celinskis and Jennifer Tierce
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Paula Ludwigson
<b>Flowers:</b>	Given by Elaine Rietz in memory of Dr. Robert Rietz
<b>Sheepdog:</b>	Sonny Lybrand, Chris Felicia, and Tom Lewis
<b>Nursery:</b>	Liz Miller and Lily Childers

## NOTES