

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

+ October 18, 2026 +
10:00 am



God Owns It All

MATTHEW 22:15-22

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET? NOT ENOUGH.

Say the word *stewardship* in some congregations and people are protectively guarding their wallets faster than you can say “pledge card”! Unfortunately, too often we associate stewardship exclusively with issues of money. The good news is that God wants our whole lives, wallets and all! Nevertheless, this week is prime time for stewardship campaigns in congregations across North America. Today’s gospel provides an ideal time to reflect on stewardship of all sorts — time, talent, and financial treasures.

The Pharisees approach Jesus in a thinly veiled attempt to trap him on issues of financial obligations to the Roman government. Their question of Jesus, simplified to the extreme, is, “Who gets your wallet?” If Jesus answered one way, he would be guilty of treason. If he answered the other way, he would have been considered guilty of heresy in the eyes of the religious leaders. Jesus responds by issuing a challenge of his own: “Give . . . to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:21). This statement challenges us to ponder: If God created the world and everything in it, doesn’t everything belong to God? God wants a whole lot more than just your wallet. God wants your life, wallet and all!



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 Twenty-first 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. **We will receive New Members again on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2026.**

IN TODAY'S FIRST READING GOD USES THE GENTILE RULER CYRUS TO ACCOMPLISH DIVINE PURPOSES. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of 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.

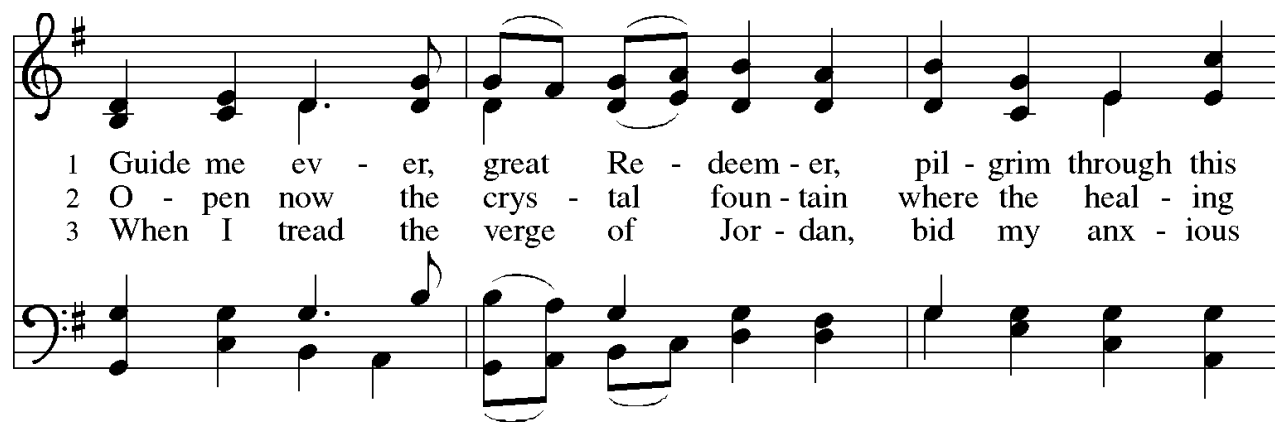
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

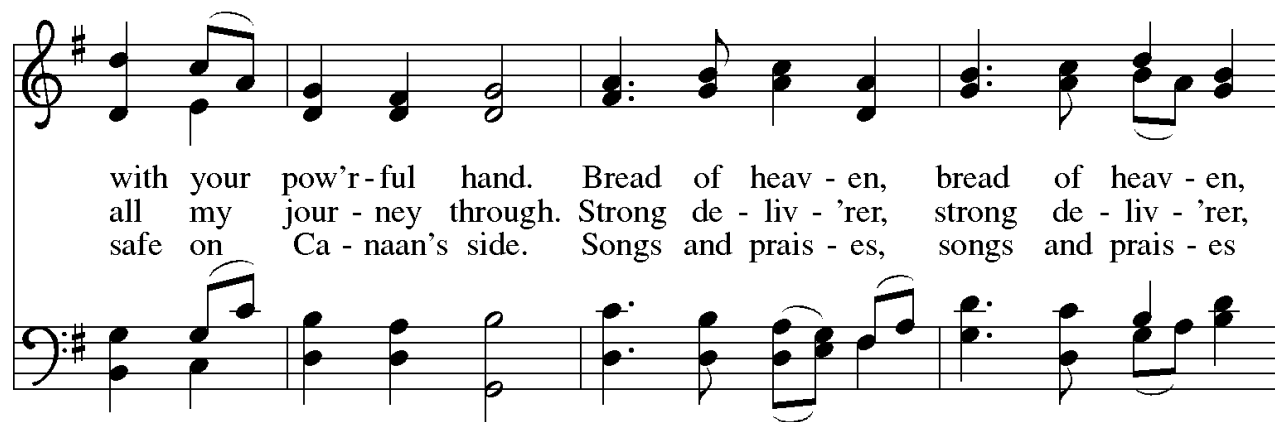
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



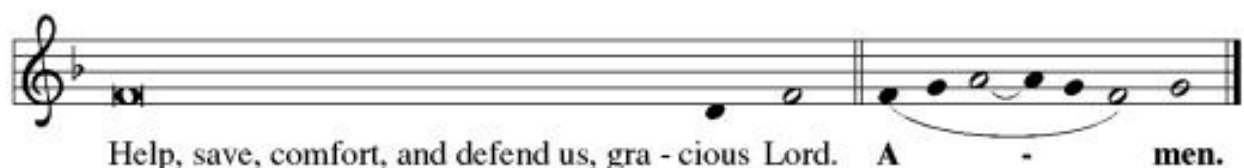
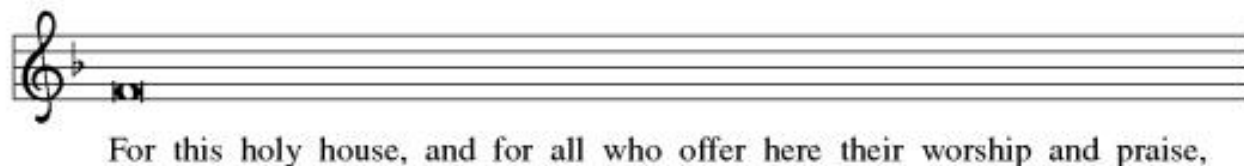
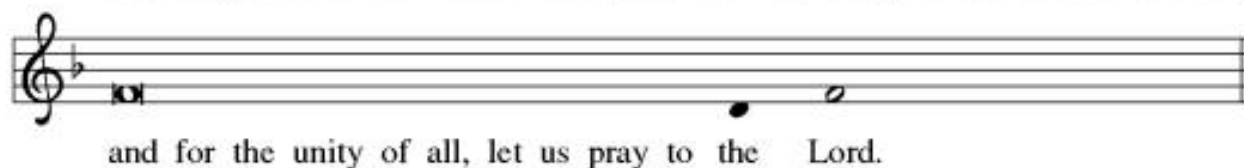
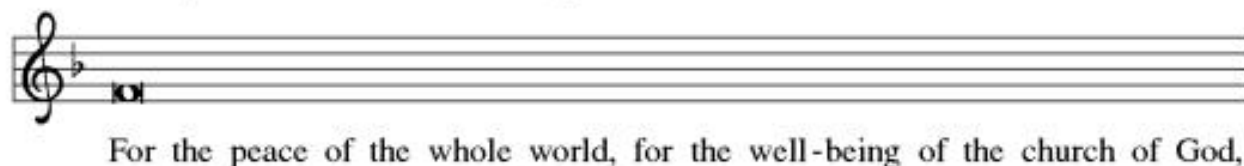
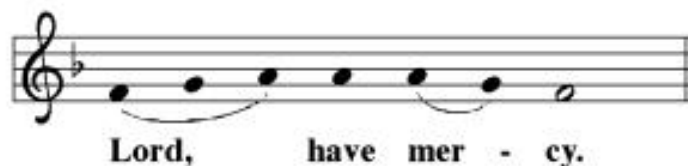
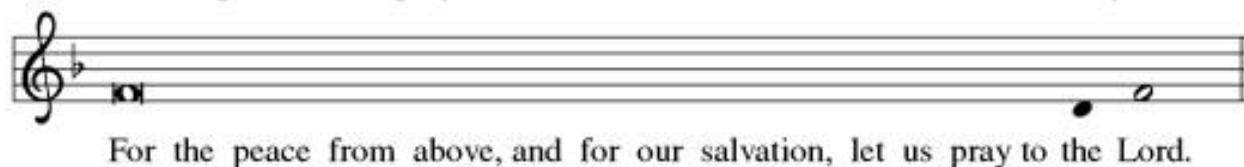
feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

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

ELW p. 138



Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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



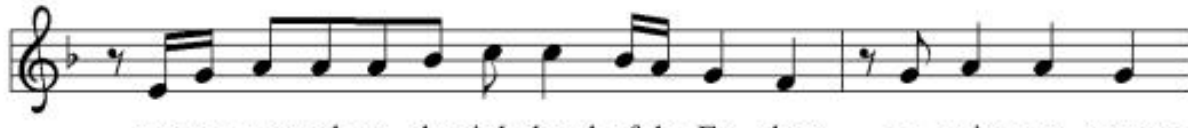
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



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.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Elise Stringer

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness. (not read aloud)

A reading from Isaiah 45:

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him — and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

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

PSALM: 96: 1-9 [10-13]

Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peo- | ples with equity."**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities. (not read aloud)

A reading from 1 Thessalonians Chapter 1:

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of
love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,
⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power
and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons
we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the
Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit,
⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For
the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia
but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to
speak about it. ⁹For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you
and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰and to wait for
his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the
coming wrath.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 22nd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

THE SERMON

Pastor Elise Stringer

HYMN OF THE DAY *CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION*

ELW #645

(printed on next page)

A vibrant poster for an Annual Chili Cook-Off. The background is a mix of orange, green, and red wavy shapes. It features illustrations of a red chili pepper, a bowl of chili, and a small bowl of red chili powder. The text is arranged in a clear, eye-catching layout.

Annual
**CHILI
COOK-OFF**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
3:00PM - 5:00PM

Calling ALL Cooks!
We know you're out there!

To enter:

- Give your chili a great name
- Fill out an entry form
- Bring a crockpot of your special recipe ready to serve at 2:45 at the Picnic Shelter

SPONSORED BY EVERGREEN

**All Proceeds benefit
2027 Youth
Gathering**

JUDGING WILL BE BY SECRET VOTE!

**VOTING TICKETS
\$1 EACH
OR
6 FOR \$5**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the Gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians, those beginning their lives in ordained ministry, and all deacons, Pastors, and Bishops. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering especially those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

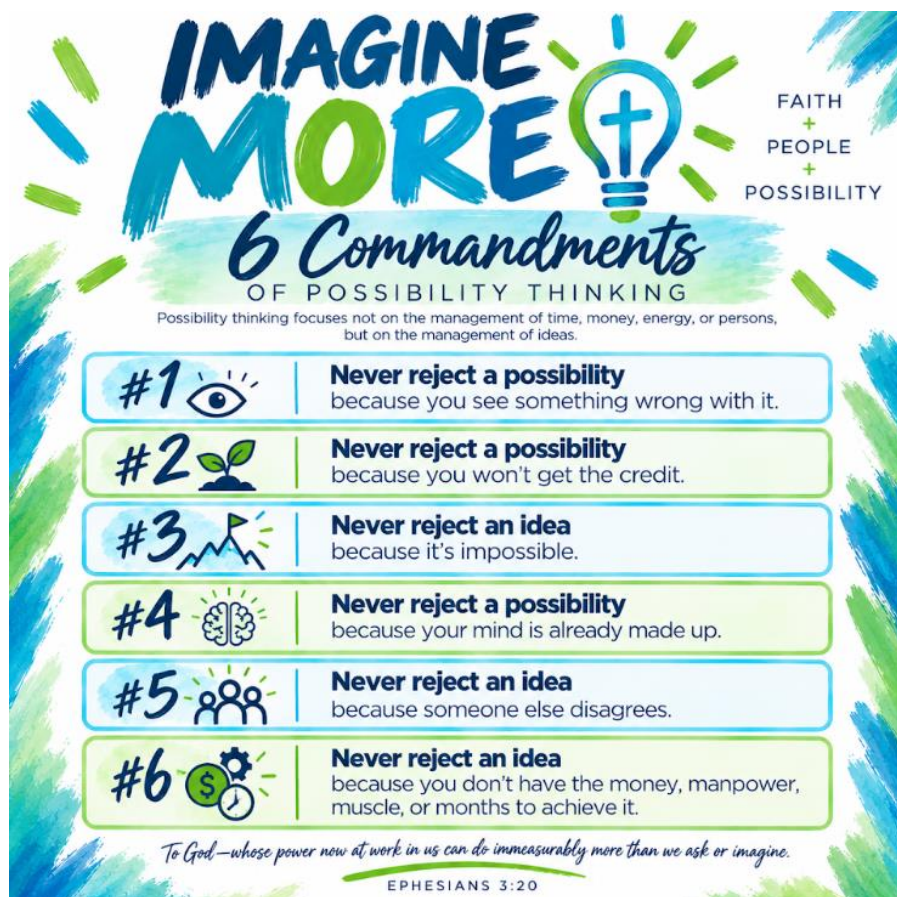
We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

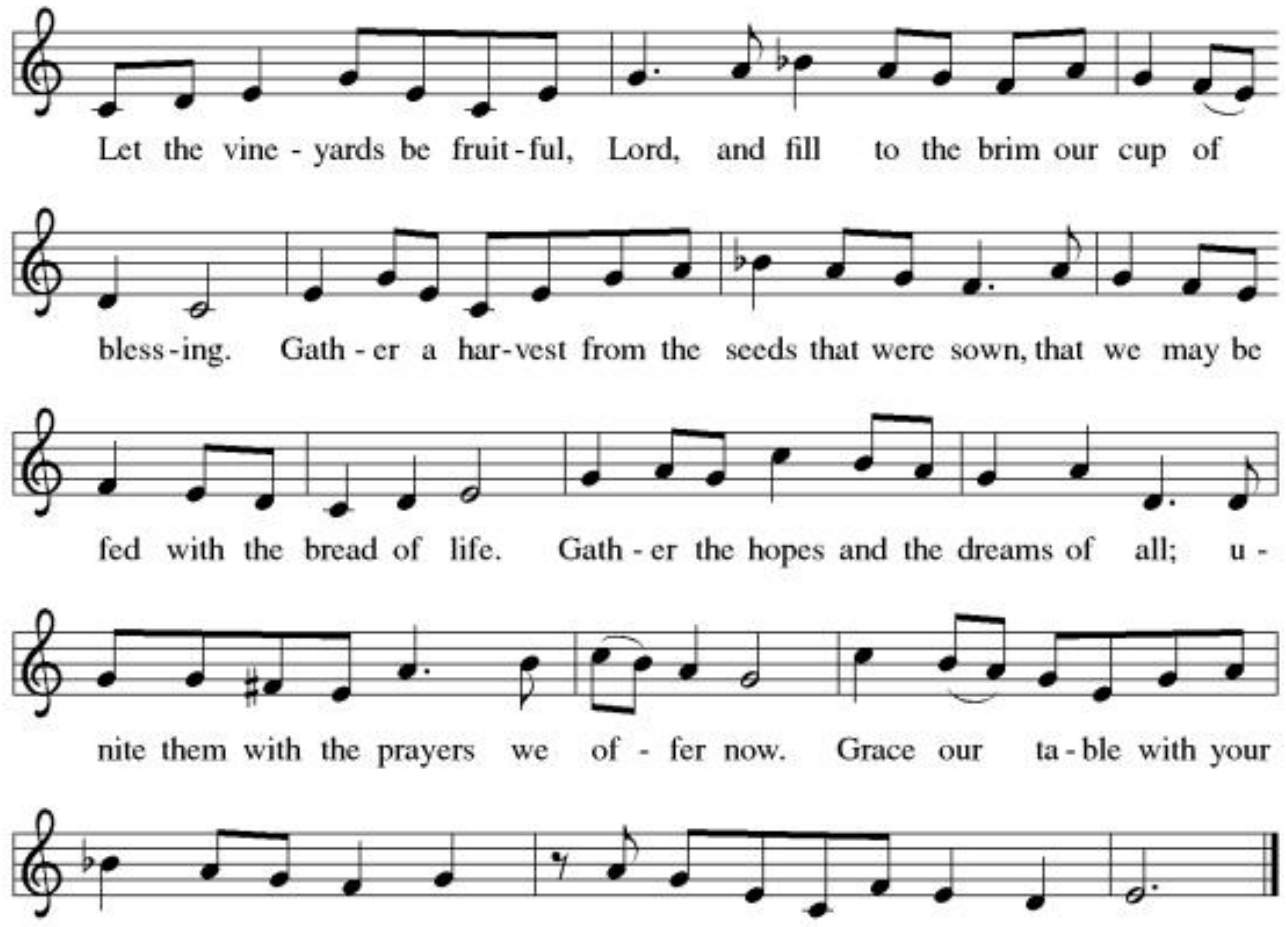
MUSICAL OFFERING

THE SONG OF GOD

Redeemer Choir

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: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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 P. 144



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.

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come! **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN:

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 146

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.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Congregation is encouraged to sing.

EAT THIS BREAD, DRINK THIS CUP

ELW #492

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

ELW #496

AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE

ELW #522

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: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **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

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY
(printed on next page)

ELW #705

DISMISSAL

Offered by Assisting Minister.

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Donna Cotter, Organist



God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Serving Today

Ushers:	Marc Karrmann and Tom Stires
Greeters:	Wade and Barbara Tate
Assisting Minister:	Hannah Hester
Lector 1:	Phil Rhoads
Lector 2:	Elaine Finley
Acolyte:	Colin Felicia
Crucifer:	Brooks Snyder
Cantor:	Nancy Stires
Counters:	Rev. Kevin Koger, Harold Neel, and Donna Norman
Altar Guild:	Marilyn Barr
Flowers:	Given by Linda and Charlie Cramer in honor of their 50 th Wedding Anniversary
Sheepdogs:	Tom Lewis, Seth Brandt, Beto Damian, and BJ King LCY – Beto Damian
Nursery:	Jennifer Tierce and Harper Meloon

Serving Next Week – October 25, 2026

Ushers:	Tom Lewis and Aaron Cornwell
Greeters:	David Henderson and Kyle Henderson
Assisting Minister:	Chuck Pegram
Lector 1:	Janet Thomas
Lector 2:	Kathy Mieczkowski
Acolyte:	Katie Ingraham
Crucifer:	Cooper Jackson
Cantor:	Jeffrey Stringer
Counters:	Rev. Kevin Koger, Harold Neel, and Donna Norman
Altar Guild:	Barbara Tate
Flowers:	Given by Brad and Brenda VanPutten in honor of their Wedding Anniversary
Sheepdogs:	Michael Miller, Brian Ginsberg, Phil Rhoads, and Renee Phillips Trunk or Treat 3:00-5:00pm JJ Johnson Devin Jackson
Nursery:	Kim Zumstein and Aurie Dill

NOTES