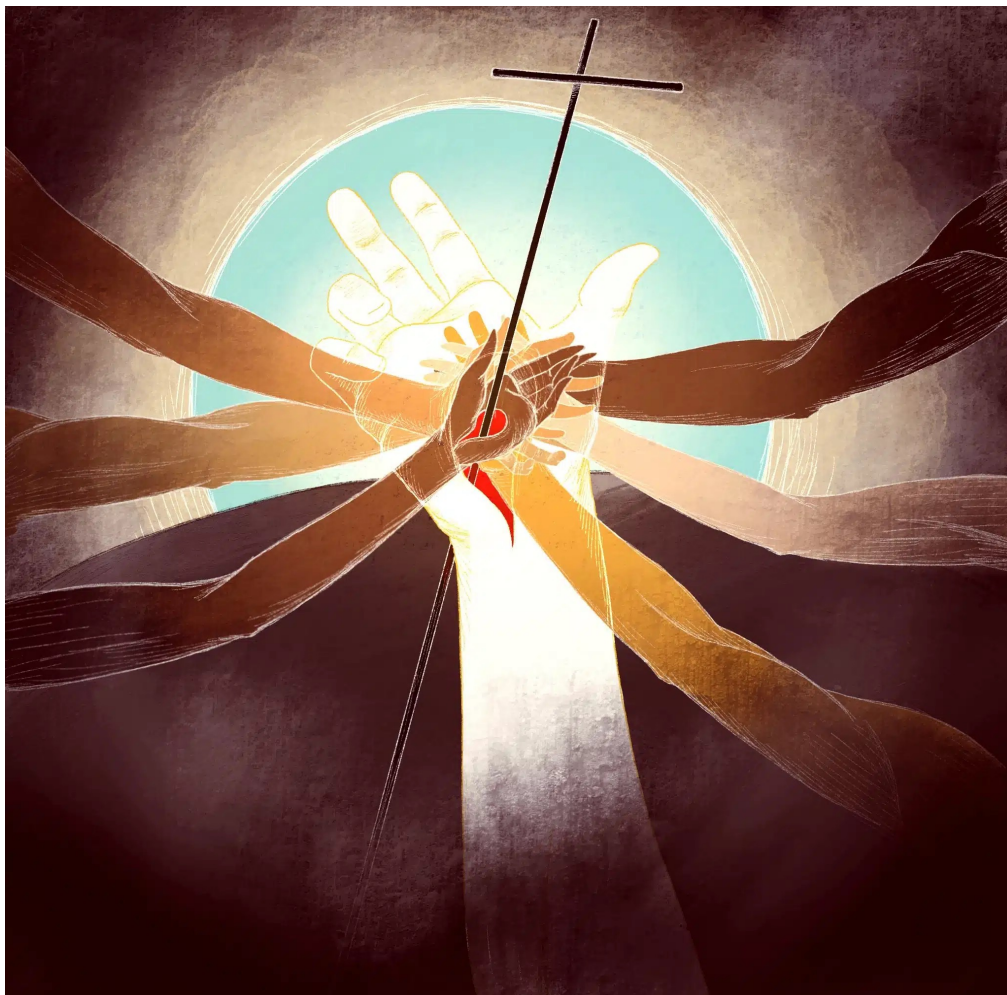


because HE LIVES!



Christ Creates Unity within Diversity

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The Easter Season

# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining us for worship today. At Redeemer we believe that the gospel message, the good news that Jesus has won for us forgiveness and eternal life, is more than just words. It's the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts. Our worship focuses on the proclamation of this life-saving message as we respond with our prayers, praise, and thanksgiving. May you be richly blessed as we worship together!

**VISITOR CARDS** are located in the card rack on the pew in front of you. If you are a guest with us today, please take a moment to fill out a card and hand it to either an usher or pastor or place it in the offering plate or the box in the gathering area.

**PARENTS' ROOM** If you have a young child or nursing infant and you find yourself in need of stepping out for a moment, a parents' room is located in the rear of the sanctuary.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEETS** as well as a collection of Arch books and doodle pads are available to keep little hands busy during worship. You'll find them on a corner shelf in the gathering area.

**RESTROOMS** are located in the gathering area. A family restroom is immediately to your right as you exit through the double doors in the rear of the sanctuary.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** can be found in your church bulletin box, in the literature rack on the rear wall of the sanctuary, or in the visitor card slots on the back of each pew.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers in the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like more information about Redeemer, please feel free to speak with one of our pastors or any one of the members after the service. You may also contact us anytime using the information below.

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# THE EASTER SEASON

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June 1/2, 2025

**SERIES THEME: *BECAUSE HE LIVES***

In this season of Easter, it’s good that we review the details: who, when, where. That reminds us that the resurrection of Christ is not fairytale or fable. It is a historical event. . . *the historical event*. However, we do ourselves a disservice if we simply recall the historic details of Easter without thinking long and hard about Easter’s significance. Jesus won. That means something! During the Easter season we’ll focus on what it means that Jesus rose from the dead. *BECAUSE HE LIVES*...

April 20.....	Death Has Lost Its Sting   Easter Sunday
Apr 27 .....	We Have a Meaningful Mission   <i>Tell the Next Generations</i> ***
May 4 .....	We See and Confess Things Clearly   Confirmation
May 11 .....	We Manage His Gifts for His Glory***
May 18 .....	We Live Lives of Committed Love   Commitment Sunday***
May 25.....	We Have Deep and Lasting Joy   <i>Celebration Sunday</i> ***
<b>Jun 1 .....</b>	<b>Christ Creates Unity within Diversity</b>
Jun 8.....	Christ Sends Us His Spirit   Pentecost

\*\*\*BUILDING ON FAITH emphasis

**TODAY’S FOCUS: *CHRIST CREATES UNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY***

After he rose, when Jesus’ followers gathered together, they comprised a group that was not very diverse. They all belonged to the same ethnic group, grew up in the same culture, spoke the same language, and followed the same customs. That would change drastically on Pentecost, when the gospel would be proclaimed in many languages to people from “every nation under heaven” (Acts 1:5).

This diversity has always been part of Christ’s plan. Rather than eliminating differences among the Church’s members, the Church’s unity is built on truths that transcend those differences. The Church truly is a communion of saints. Differences in our world often lead to division. That is not to be the case in the Church. Because he lives, Christ creates unity within diversity. And when the world sees the unity in diversity that characterizes Christ’s Church, it will recognize something unique and special about Christians.

# THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

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## OPENING HYMN

*Oh, How Good It Is* | **731**

## INVOCATION

Minister	In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation	<b>Amen.</b>

## OPENING VERSES

*Psalm 133/Ephesians 4:4-6*

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!  
**For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.**

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;  
**one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION


As brothers and sisters, unified by our common faith in our risen and ascended Savior Jesus, who continues to intercede for us at God's right hand, let us come before our heavenly Father's throne of grace, confess our sins, and humbly ask for his forgiveness.

**Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**Amen.**

## GLORY BE TO GOD



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en, peace to those he loves so  
2 On-ly Son of God the Fa-ther, Lamb who takes our sin a -  
well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his  
way, now with him in tri-umph seat - ed— for your  
grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your  
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and  
glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav-en's King; hear our  
ho - ly, Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the  
joy - ful ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.  
glo - ry of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Acts 16:6-10

<sup>6</sup> Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

*The ascended Lord directs Paul to leave Asia and preach the gospel for the first time in a territory that today we call Europe.*

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

## PSALM OF THE DAY

In Unity and Peace | **732**

*For today's psalm we join in singing a hymn based on Psalm 133 and Ephesians 4:1-6, expanding on the verses we spoke together to open our service today.*

## SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

<sup>11</sup> All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying:

"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

<sup>14</sup> I answered, "Sir, you know."

*St. John sees individuals of every nation, tribe, language, and people in heaven. They are perfectly united in the fact that all are wearing the robe of Christ's righteousness.*

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore,

"they are before the throne of God  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne  
will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup> 'Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,'  
nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb at the center of the throne  
will be their shepherd;

'he will lead them to springs of living water.'

'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

*John 17:20-26*

<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

*Jesus prays that all his followers might be one, just as he and the Father are one.*

<sup>24</sup> "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Go Forth and Preach the Gospel* | **908**

## SERMON

**BECAUSE HE LIVES: CHRIST CREATES UNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY**

*John 17:20-26*

## OFFERING



Online gifts may be given by scanning the QR code or at [redeemerfdl.org/give](https://redeemerfdl.org/give). You may also use the Vanco app: Search first for Fond du Lac, then scroll down to Redeemer. Online givers may place the cards located in the card rack on the back of the pews into the plate.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



## LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."  
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:  
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.  
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

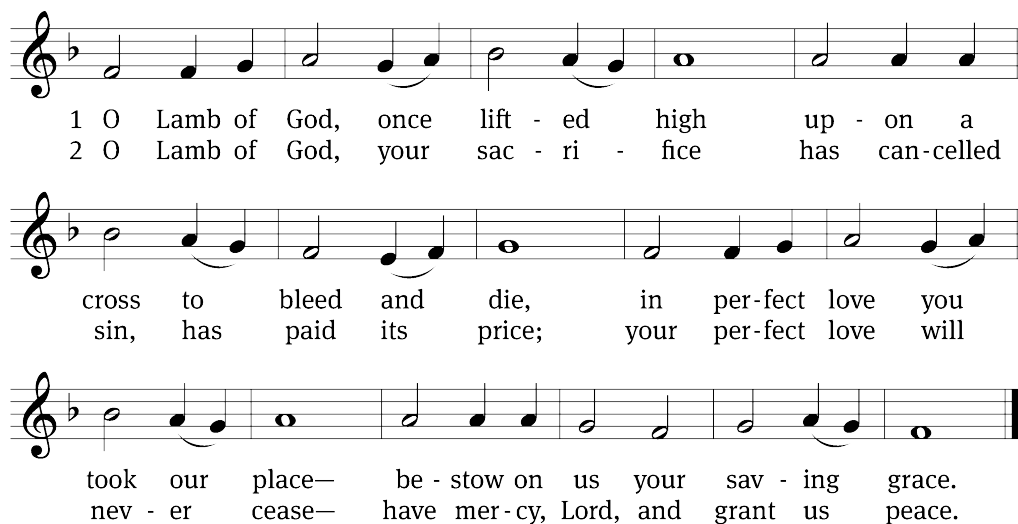
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my  $\text{✙}$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my  $\text{✙}$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

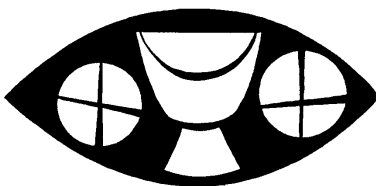


1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a  
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can-celled

cross to bleed and die, in per-fect love you  
sin, has paid its price; your per-fect love will

took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.  
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

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## PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

*In the Bible, God tells us that a person ought to examine himself or herself before receiving Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:28,29). Those who receive Communion today confess they hold the following convictions:*

*1) I repent of all my sins, holding nothing back from God (1 John 1:9). 2) I believe that Jesus took away my sins through his death on the cross (1 John 3:5). 3) I believe that in Communion I receive Jesus' true body and blood along with the bread and the wine (Matthew 26:26-27, 1 Corinthians 10:16). 4) I agree with all the teachings of this church family, as I have learned to know them through their instruction classes.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared* | **667**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing us in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let us always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

**Amen.**

### BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN

*May the Peace of God* | **929**



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*WE EXIST TO GLORIFY GOD AS  
WE GATHER, GROW, AND GO*

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