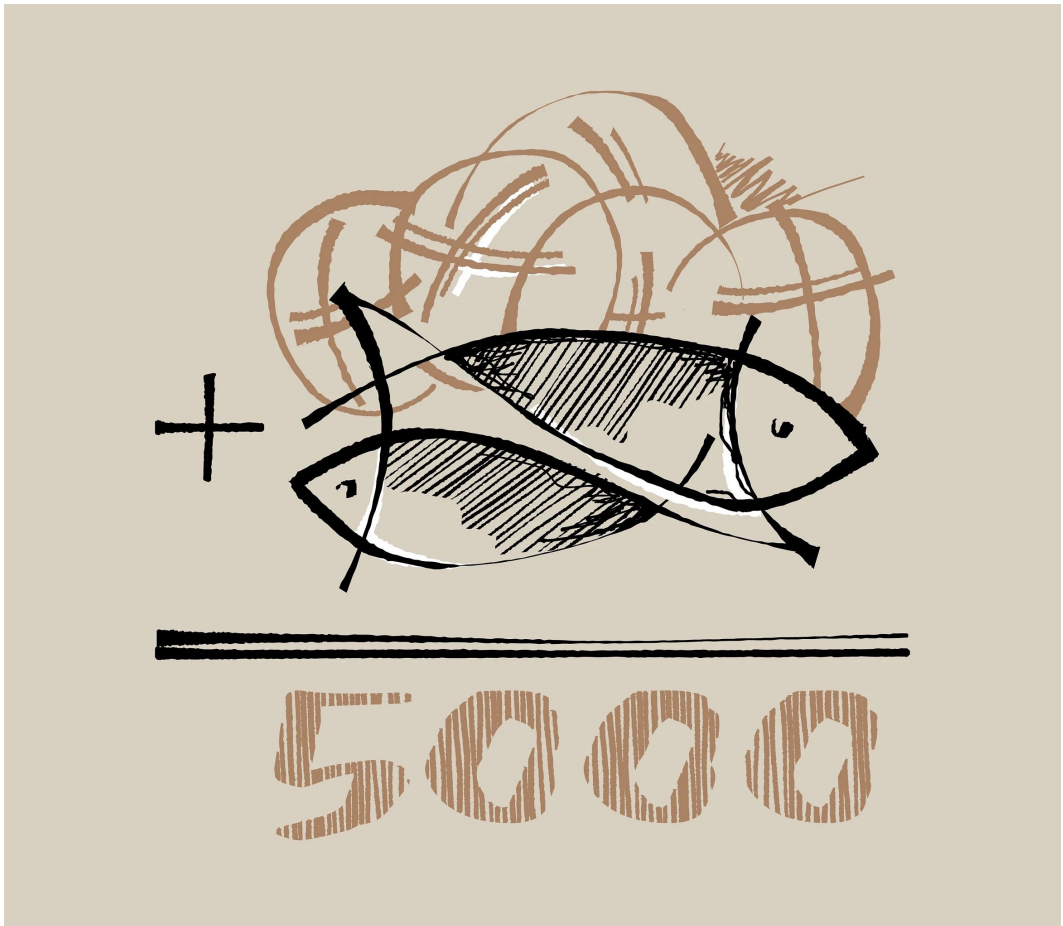


# MEANINGFUL MINISTRY



God Meets Our Needs to Meet  
Others' Needs

# **R**EDEEMER 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 are available to keep little hands busy during worship. They are located 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. The other restrooms are to your left.

**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 PENTECOST SEASON

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July 28/29, 2024

## MEANINGFUL MINISTRY

“Ministry” is one of those churchy words that is often used, yet perhaps not fully understood. Ministry comes from the Latin word for “service.” Ministry involves serving others with love, compassion, and empathy. Helping someone with physical needs is sometimes called “compassion ministry.” Helping someone with their spiritual needs, sharing the good news of Christ, is generally called “gospel ministry.” We misunderstand ministry if we think of it as something only ministers do. While pastors are called to perform gospel ministry on behalf of others, ultimately every believer is called by God to reflect Christ-like love and share the message of salvation as God provides those opportunities.

In this series we see our efforts to meet the needs of those God brings into our sphere of influence as meaningful ministry. In our service to them, those people see God’s love and God sees our faith.

- July 7 .....Not Gratitude, but Rejection
- July 14 .....Sent with God’s Own Authority
- July 21 .....Jesus Models a Compassionate Shepherd’s Heart
- July 28.....God Meets Our Needs to Meet Others’ Needs**
- August 4.....Fear Not, for the Lord Is with You



## TODAY’S FOCUS: GOD MEETS OUR NEEDS TO MEET OTHERS’ NEEDS

King David explains, “The earth is the LORD’s and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1). That word “everything” doesn’t leave any wiggle room, does it? That word “everything” means that your home and all its furnishings, your vehicle and all that’s in the trunk, your bank account, the twenty-eight dollars in your wallet, the wallet itself, and the pocket in which you carry your wallet all belong to God. Everything you have was given to you by your good and gracious Father. We need to understand that.

But it is just as important that we understand why God provides for our physical needs. As we have seen throughout this worship series, God has called us to ministry. He asks us to reflect his love in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of others. Believers want to serve others in those ways. By providing for us, God meets our needs to meet others’ needs.

# THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

## OPENING HYMN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* | 624:1-4



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your  
reign - ing and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
made you, health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly  
fend you; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear now to his  
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen how all that's  
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief ev - er has  
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al -



tem - ple draw near, join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
need - ful has been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
failed of re - lief? Wings of his mer - cy did shade you.  
might - y can do as with his love he be - friends you.

## OPENING VERSES

*Psalms 108*

**Minister** I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

**Congregation** For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered.

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Brothers and sisters, in spite of the Lord's great love and unwavering faithfulness, we daily fail to give him the honor and praise that he deserves by the way that we live our lives. And yet, he sent his only Son, our Savior Jesus, to save us from sin and deliver us from death. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and confidently seek his forgiveness.

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved others as you command. For this I deserve your punishment now and forever. I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I plead for your mercy.**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as his called servant and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen!**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* | 624:5

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -  
dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with  
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his  
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve your goodness, still you provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge your gifts, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

<sup>1</sup> The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. <sup>5</sup> On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

<sup>6</sup> So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, <sup>7</sup> and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" <sup>8</sup> Moses also said, "You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord."

*The LORD graciously and miraculously provides for the physical needs of the children of Israel.*

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.' "

<sup>10</sup> While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to Moses, <sup>12</sup> "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.' "

<sup>13</sup> That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE**



1 For the fruits of his cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.



For his gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

**SECOND READING**

*2 Corinthians 9:8-11*

<sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”

*Paul teaches that God blesses us abundantly so that we have the resources to abound in every good work, generously helping others in all their needs.*

<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE***For the Fruits of His Creation* | **506:2**

2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.



In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.



In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -



spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.

**GOSPEL***Mark 6:35-44*

<sup>35</sup> By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. <sup>36</sup> Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

<sup>37</sup> But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

<sup>38</sup> "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.

<sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

*Jesus ministers to people by sharing the good news of salvation and by providing for their physical needs.*



Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup>and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup>The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*Explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed*  
Martin Luther

**I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities. And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* | **749**

*The Hymn of the Day is printed on p. 10 in the service folder.*

## **SERMON**

**BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING**

*2 Corinthians 9:8-11*

## **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.*

*\*\*\*During the outdoor service, offerings may be placed in the wood offering box in the rear of the assembly.*



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your



end - less store: na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom,  
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom,  
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred,



cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door— gift - ed by you, we turn  
 rac - es joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
 and to spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise; thank - ful  
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone; born with  
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing,



songs shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
 tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
 teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006

Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

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## **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.

### **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.**

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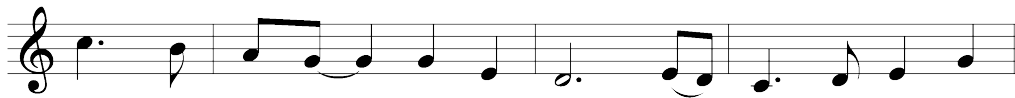
1 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who bore my  
 2 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who walks be -  
 3 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who reigns a -



pain, who plumbed the depths of my dis - grace and  
 side, who floods my weak - ness - es with strength and  
 bobe, whose wis - dom is my per - fect peace, whose



gave me life a - gain, who crushed my curse of sin - ful -  
 caus-es fears to fly, whose ev - 'ry prom - ise is e -  
 ev - 'ry thought is love. For ev - 'ry day I have on



ness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of  
 nough for ev - 'ry step I take, sus - tain - ing me with  
 earth is giv - en by the King. So I will give my



right - eous - ness with pow'r up - on my heart.  
 arms of love and crown - ing me with grace.  
 life, my all, to love and fol - low him.

\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* This phrase repeats at the end of st. 3.