

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024
8:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church and School

Reaching Out into the Community
To Do What's Best for the Community

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Welcome to worship with the Redeemer family! We are pleased that you joined us for worship today. Our regular worship schedule each Sunday is **8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** Adult and youth Bible classes are held at **9:45 a.m.** as listed in the information page. If infants/toddlers become restless during worship, you are welcome to use the parent's room, located at the right of the narthex as you leave the sanctuary, but please come back. Children's quiet bags for use during church services are available in the narthex.

Order of Worship

*The worshipers are invited to sing or speak the words in **bold print** throughout the worship service.*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

“Let There Be Wonder”

Redman

Let this place be an upper room where Your people learn to wait.

Let this house become holy ground where your children watch and pray.

O, remind us today: we are people of Your presence.

(Chorus) **Let there be wonder, let there be wonder in this place.**

Let there be worship, let there be worship for Your name.

Come, Holy Spirit, how we need Your fire again.

Let there be wonder, let there be wonder.

We’re in awe, and we fear Your name, but we will not be afraid.

For the King in His holiness is our Father and our friend.

O, remind us today, we are people of Your presence. *(Chorus)*

Is He not the God who parted the sea? Is He not the One who heals our disease?

Is He not the source of all that we need? You’re all that we need.

Is He not the God who emptied the grave? Is He not the One who breaks ev’ry chain?

Is He not the hope still with us today? You’re with us today. *(Chorus)*

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Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession

We confess to the Lord:

Lord of the Church, You know that we are by nature sinful and unclean. When it comes to confronting others with their sin, we have not always done so with a desire for oneness with others. We desire to get a pound of flesh in payment for the hurt we have experienced. Then, our accusations drive further division. Sometimes we avoid people altogether. Forgive us our failings that, in Your forgiveness, we might be empowered to be a blessing to those around us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Forgiveness of Sins

Song of Praise

“Humble King”

Brenton Brown

O kneel me down again, here at Your feet;

Show me how much You love humility.

**Oh, Spirit, be the star that leads me to
The humble heart of love I see in You.**

Chorus: **‘Cause You are the God of the broken, the Friend of the weak;
You wash the feet of the weary, embrace the ones in need.
I want to be like You, Jesus, to have this heart in me.
You are the God of the humble; You are the humble King.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

You are the God of the humble; You are the humble King.

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Prayer of the Day

We pray together:

Lord of Love and Forgiveness, gift us faith and strength to pursue Your will in the process of reconciling with one another. Help us to make accusations of sin in clear, specific ways. Grant us a calmness of heart that we might work for the benefit of those around us. Give us wisdom to speak in loving ways. Grant that we would win over those who have sinned, and in the process, be free of the ways of this world. Amen.

The First Reading

2 Samuel 12:1-15 ESV

And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.” Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.” Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ Thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’” David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin;

you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die. Then Nathan went to his house.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading

James 5:13-18 ESV

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:15-35 ESV

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you

have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

Children’s Message

Sermon Song of Praise

“Cornerstone”

Myrin/Mote

My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus’ name.

Chorus: Christ alone. Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the Savior’s love.

Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace.

In ev’ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (*Chorus*)

When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found.

Dressed in His righteousness alone. Faultless stand before the throne. (*Chorus*)

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Message

“Loving Accusation”

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Gathering of the Tithes and Offerings

(Please stand when the offerings are brought forward.)

“Send Me”

Johnson

**If it’s bandaging the broken or washing filthy feet,
here I am, Lord, send me.**

**If it’s loving one another even when we don’t agree,
here I am, Lord, send me.**

**If I'm poor or if I'm wealthy, I'll serve You just the same.
Here I am, Lord, send me.**

**On the mountain or the valley, I will choose to praise,
Here I am, Lord, send me.**

(Chorus) **If I'm known by how I love,
let my life reflect how much I love You, I love You.
And before You even ask,
oh, my answer will be yes, 'cause I love You.**

**If the truth cuts like an arrow, I will say it anyway,
'cause here I am, Lord, send me.**

**If it means that they'll reject me, Lord, I will still obey.
Here I am, Lord, send me.**

(Chorus)

**When I'm standing in Your glory I'll be glad I chose to say,
"Here I am, Lord, send me."**

**"Well done, good and faithful," I live to hear You say.
Here I am, Lord, send me.**

Here I am, Lord, send me. Here I am, Lord, send me.

(Chorus twice)

Here I am, Lord, send me. Here I am, Lord, send me.

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The Offering Prayer

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Distribution Songs

(Holy Communion is a special meal for the baptized followers of Jesus. Jesus is really present in the bread and wine. He says, "This is My body... This is My blood." If you share this belief in His real presence, are repentant of your sins, and are baptized in the Triune God, you are welcome. Children who have not received instruction in the meaning of Holy Communion are invited forward for a blessing; please fold your arms in front of you. Wine is offered via the common cup and individual glass. Non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center of each tray. Hand your communion card to the usher as you go up for communion. Guests, please read and fill in the gold card.) (Please join in singing:)

"Lamb of God"

Marty Haugen

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You are the way of mercy and love:

Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

**Lamb of God, You are God's light to all of the world:
Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:
Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.**

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“Come to Jesus (Rest in Him)”

Kauflin

**Are you weary, heavy laden? Come and lay your burdens down;
Jesus calls you, Jesus draws you; rest in Him.
He is gentle, He is lowly, He delights to bring us peace;
Tender Shepherd, mighty Savior: rest in Him.**

(Chorus) **How sure his compassion for us! Oh how deep is his love;
So come, come to Jesus and rest in Him.**

**Are you hopeless, are you guilty? Caught in shame for all your sin?
He pursues you to forgive you; rest in Him.
He has paid for ev'ry failure, Mercy flows in endless streams;
Come and follow, freedom call you: rest in Him. *(Chorus)***

**Are you waiting in your sorrows For this broken world to heal?
He is coming, soon returning; rest in Him.
We will see Him, we will know Him, O what heights of grace revealed;
From His kindness ev'ry promise then fulfilled;
Trust in Jesus, He will keep us to the end. *(Chorus)***

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“Who Am I”

Mark Hall

**Who am I that the Lord of all the earth would care to know my name
Would care to feel my hurt.
Who am I that the Bright and Morning Star would choose to light the way
For my ever wand'ring heart.
Not because of who I am, but because of what You've done,
Not because of what I've done, but because of Who You are.**

Chorus: **I am a flower quickly fading, here today and gone tomorrow,
A wave tossed in the ocean, a vapor in the wind.
Still You hear me when I'm calling.
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling, and You've told me who I am.
I am Yours. I am Yours.**

**Who am I that the eyes that see my sin would look on me with love
And watch me rise again.
Who am I that the voice that calmed the sea would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me.
Not because of who I am, but because of what You've done,**

Not because of what I've done, but because of Who You are. (chorus)

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The Communion Blessing

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Forgiven and fed, you are now entering the mission field.

Here am I, Lord, send me!

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Closing Song of Praise

“God Is for Us”

Farren

We won't fear the battle, we won't fear the night.

We will walk the Valley with You by our side.

You will go before us, You will lead the way.

We have found a refuge, only You can save.

(Chorus) **Sing with joy now; our God is for us.**

The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress.

Raise your voice now, no love is greater.

Who can stand against us if our God is for us?

Even when I stumble, even when I fall,

Even when I turn back, still Your love is sure.

You will not abandon, You will not forsake.

You will cheer me onward with never-ending grace. (Chorus)

Neither height nor depth can separate us. Hell and death will not defeat us.

He who gave His Son to free us holds me in His love. (Repeat)

(Chorus twice)

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