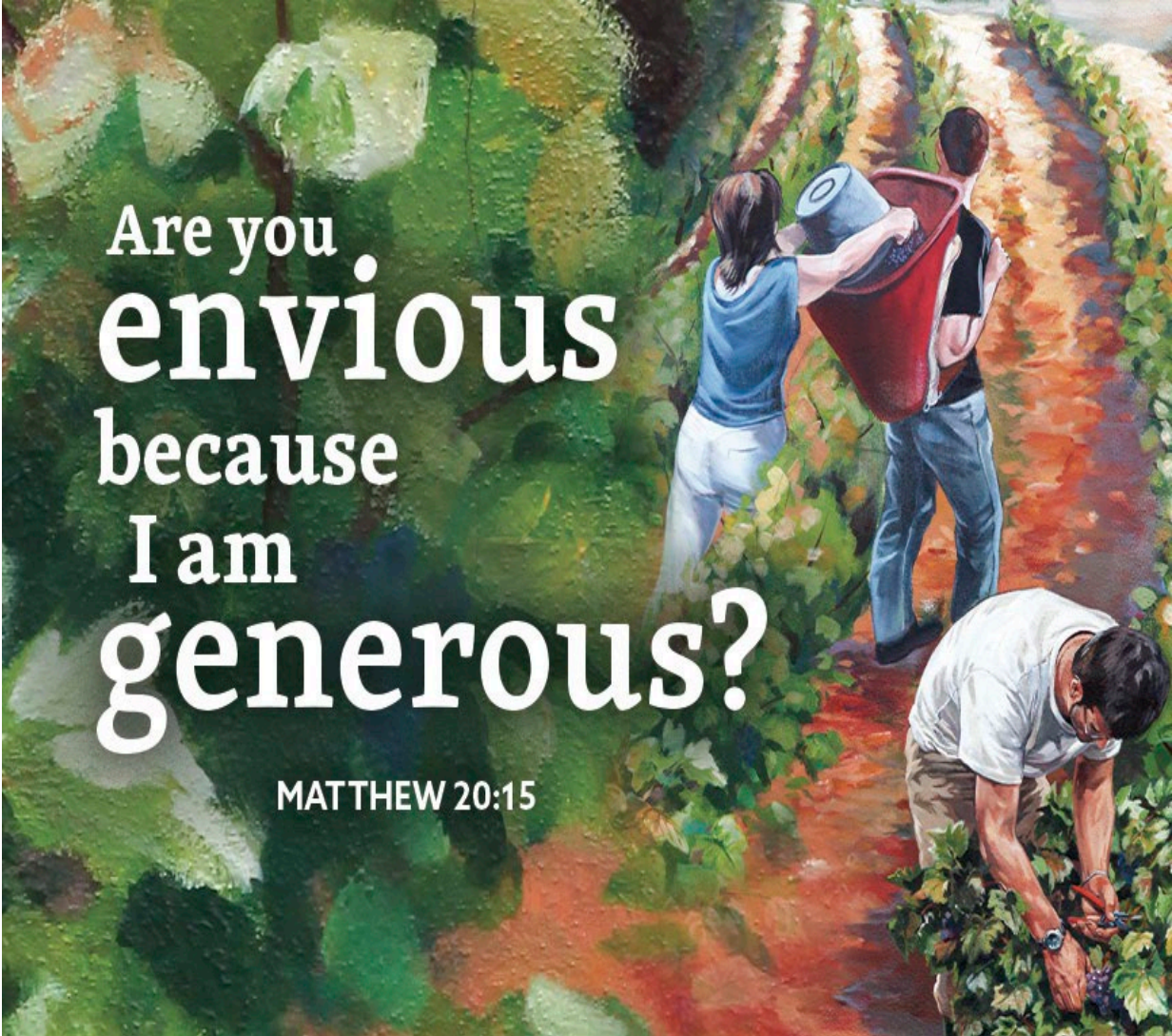




Are you
envious
because
I am
generous?

MATTHEW 20:15

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Stephanie White

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Order of Worship
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Key to hymnals in the pews:

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red); page numbers are in front, hymns in back

WOV = With One Voice (blue); page numbers are in front, hymns in back

STS = Spirit Touching Spirit (grey)

** = Please rise*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

We welcome all who are gathered with us for worship, whether in person or via the livestream! If you are worshipping with us via the livestream, please send an e-mail to redeemer@gvtel.com to let us know from where you are worshipping.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Water is poured into the baptismal font.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

***Proclamation Hymn**

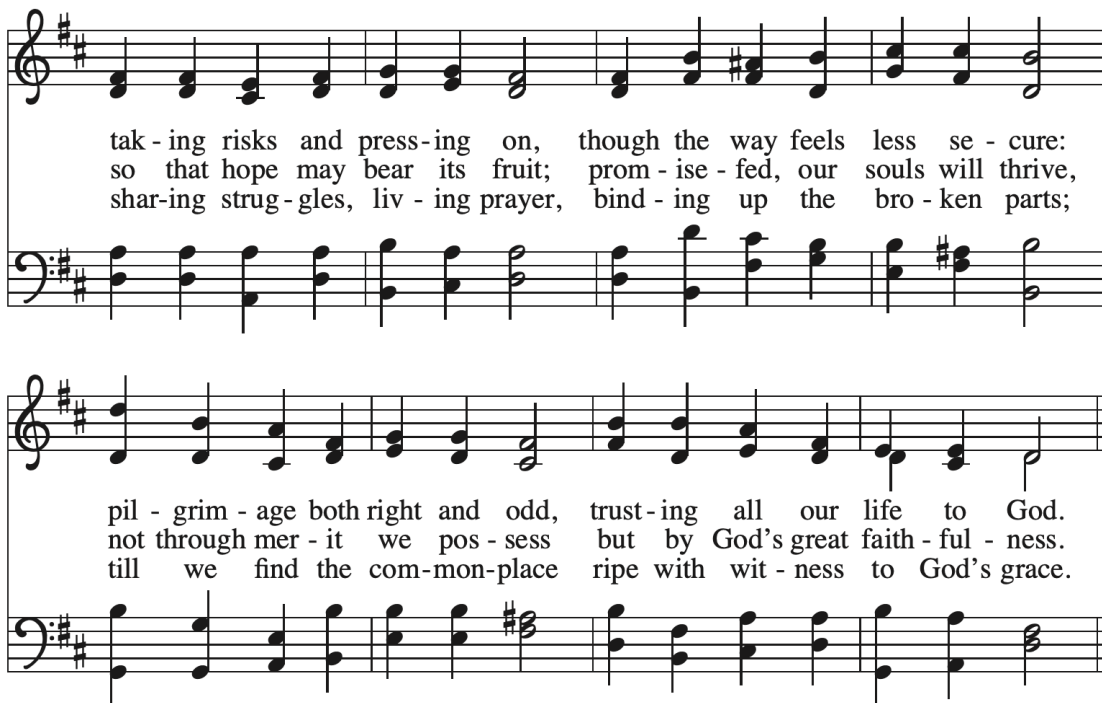
Faith Begins by Letting Go

ACS #1004

All turn and face the processional cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting, likely for soprano and bass voices. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a range of one octave. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with each line of music corresponding to a line of text. The lyrics are: 1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure, 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts, The score ends with a final chord in the bass line.

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;

pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

*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...Almighty and Eternal God,
**you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot
rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to
embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading: *Faced with hunger in the wilderness, the Israelites longed for life back in Egypt and wished they had never left. Then God miraculously and graciously gave them quails and manna to eat.*

Exodus 16:2-15

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?”

⁸ And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’ ”

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

Responding to the story of God's care for the people and animals of Nineveh, we sing Psalm 145:1-8. With this psalm of thanksgiving, we place our trust not, for example, in the rulers of our own Nineveh (v. 3), but in the Lord, who surprises us with unending mercy. We too are fed by God. The psalm includes the original biblical worldview that God blesses us in this life, rather than in an afterlife.

Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
- ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: *Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

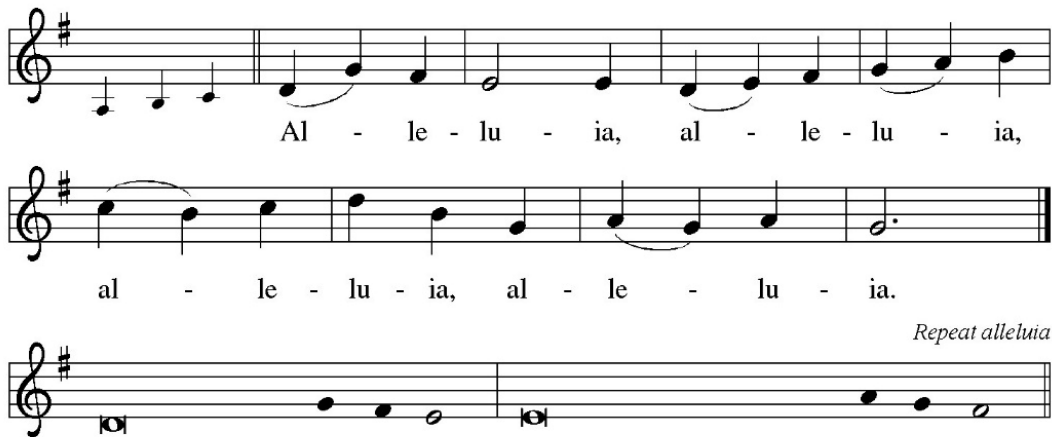
²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is

evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 102



Gospel: *Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

*Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew...
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him,

‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’

⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius.

¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’

¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Stephanie White

***Hymn of the Day**

As Saints of Old

LBW #404



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield;
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first-fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your-self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our-selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christiersen, b. 1900, alt.
Music: REGWAL, Leland B. Sateren, b. 1913

Text © 1961, 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.
Music © Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***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 the Church**

...Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

***Peace**

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

We welcome you to Redeemer Lutheran Church this day! In-person worshippers can place their offering in the offering plate at this time. Your tithes and offerings submitted via the Postal Service or electronically are also gratefully appreciated. Also at this time, please take a minute to sign the red book and the end of pews and pass it down. Thank you!

***Offertory**

Take Me Lord
sing twice

STS #41

Take me, Lord, I give to you,
everything and all I do!
My love, my life, is my offering
that I give to you.

***Offering Prayer**

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.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

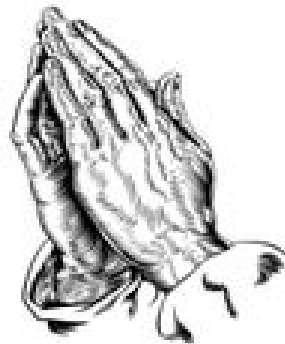
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***Lord's Prayer**

**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.**



Distribution

If you are worshipping with us via the livestream, we invite you to join in celebrating at Christ's table wherever you are, with bread and wine, grape juice, or water, as we remain physically separated yet "together met, together bound by all that God has done" and "the love that makes us one." ("I Come with Joy", ELW #482)

If you are worshipping with us in person today, know that all who come seeking Jesus are invited to receive these gifts of God. Please approach the serving station at the front of the church using the center aisle. Please take an empty cup as you approach the head of the aisle; if you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please take one of the pre-filled cups of white grape juice from the center of the tray.

Our bread is gluten- and other allergen-free.

Hymn during Distribution

When We Are Living

ELW #639

When We Are Living *Pues si vivimos*



<i>Pues si vi - vi - mos,</i>	<i>pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,</i>
1 When we are liv - ing,	it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 'Mid times of sor - row	and in times of pain,
3 A - cross this wide world,	we shall al - ways find



<i>y si mo - ri - mos</i>	<i>pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.</i>
and when we're dy - ing,	it is in the Lord. . . .
when sens - ing beau - ty	or in love's em - brace, . . .
those who are cry - ing	with no peace of mind; . . .



<i>Sea que vi - va - mos</i>	<i>o que mu - ra - mos,</i>
Both in our liv - ing	and in our dy - ing,
wheth - er we suf - fer,	or sing re - joic - ing,
and when we help them,	or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor,
we be - long to God,
we be - long to God,
we be - long to God,

so - mos del Se - ñor.
we be - long to God.
we be - long to God.
we be - long to God.

***Post-Communion Blessing**

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

Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

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.

***Benediction**

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope

grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace

✠ bless you now and forever.

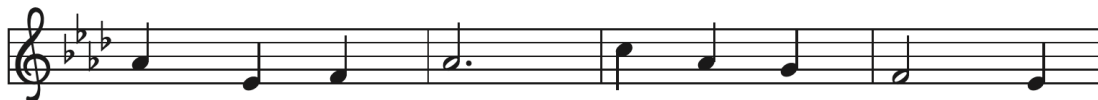
Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

God's Work, Our Hands

ACS #1000

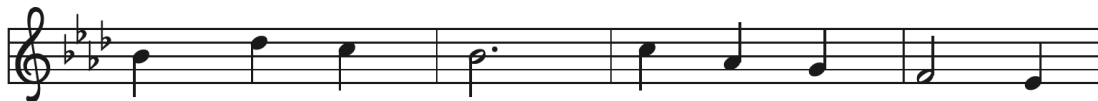
All turn and face the processional cross as it is carried from the sanctuary.



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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ASSISTING IN MINISTRY

Presiding: Rev. Stephanie White

Ushers: Dave Ulrich and Ken Froschheiser

Acolytes: Corbyn Kertz and Kenya Liden

Lector: Jan Nordin

Communion Assistant: Lexi Dennis and Jan Anderson

Serving at the Altar:

Organist: Reid Froiland

Cantor: Chris Cuppett

Video: Dave Ulrich

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

1300 Nora St. E.

Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Phone: (218) 681-3390

Web: www.redeemertf.org

Email: redemer@gvtel.com

Rev. Stephanie White, *pastor*

Dianne Stroh, *administrative assistant*

Marit Knutson, *financial secretary*

Katelyn Johanneck *director of gen. ministry*

Terri Cuppuett, *council president*

Reid Froiland, *organist/liturgist/choir director*

Chris Cuppett, *cantor*

Mike Lundgren, *custodian*

Dave Ulrich, *videographer*



**God's Work
Our Hands**

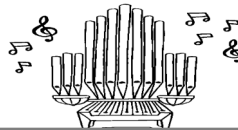
In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Dale Dillon, Kathy and Craig Slick, Hunter Crotty, Joe Caswell Family, Lillian Ancoa, The Marlys Anderson Family, Shane Defreece, Mike and Kathy Barry Family, Tom Goddard Families, Larry Forsberg and Family, Hannah Holthouse, Roger Forsberg, Nancy Killian, Heather Stein, Kristie Huseeth, Diane Brooks, Jon Christianson, Tom Gustafson, Tamara Vaughan, Darren Bakke, Rick Harbott, Michelle Kasprick, Shari Safranski, Barb Horien, Rick and Tami Hanson, Rose Teie, Fern Melbye, Laurie Miller, Adam Holthouse (deployed to Iran.)

If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, please let Pastor Steph or the office know.



**Altar flowers are given today by
Reid Froiland
In celebration of 35 years
of our Casavant-Fr'ere organ
leading Redeemer's song!**



Quarterly statements are available upon request; please contact Marit at the church office.

**Week Ending
September 13, 2026
\$ 2,950.13**



Volunteers are needed to read, usher and serve communion. If you can help out in any of these roles, please fill out a volunteer sheet found on our new church app. Thank you for sharing your time and talents.

Everyone is welcome to come enjoy the Coffee Cart every Thursday from 9am to 11am. Bring a friend and come have coffee, tea, or another beverage along with a treat.

Coming this week:

Monday, September 21 – 5:00 AAWU Meeting

Tuesday, September 22 – 9:00 Quilters

3:30 Techy Tuesday

Wednesday, September 23 – 9:30 Staff

5:45 J.A.M.

6:30 Evening Prayer Worship

7:00 Confirmation

Thursday, September 24 – 9:00 Coffee Cart with Katelyn

5:30 SWEETS @ South China Buffet

Sunday, September 27 – 9:30 – Worship

6:30 – Viewing of “The Chosen” Season 6 Episode 1

Holt Nazareth Lutheran Fall Dinner is today beginning at 11:30. Enjoy a turkey dinner with all the fixings as well as Scandinavian treats. They will also be selling a few of these treats.

Food Drive carts are out in the Narthex. Please remember to bring a donation to help the hungry in our community. All donations will be brought to the local food shelf. Thank you! The theme is **Kid Friendly!**

Please download the app for Redeemer on your electronic devices. If you are needing help with this, Katelyn is offering Tech Tuesday from 3:30 to 6:00pm every Tuesday. Stop in and she will help get the app downloaded to your electronic devices, show you how it works and answer any questions you may have.

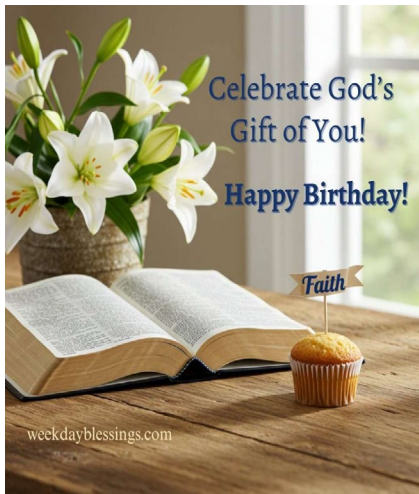
The 2nd Annual Hootenanny will be on October 25th at 5:00 p.m. Hot dog lunch will be served. Come and join in the fun!

Confirmation pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 7th.

Confirmation will be on October 25th this year.

 A grief support group meets on the 3rd Thursday at 1:30 p.m. each month at the Heritage Center. Open to all adults dealing with the loss of a loved one through death. All meetings are free. You may call 800-237-4629 with questions

September Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Douglas Nomeland | 16. Anna Stroh |
| 3. April Scheinoha | 17. Beth Nordby-Pelletier |
| 4. Brandon Gehrls | Pat Thibert |
| Jason Svir | 18. Susan Froiland |
| Charlotte Aahles | Chuck Odegaard |
| 6. Brady Bakken | 19. Chad Eckstein |
| 7. Mike Conely | 20. Jacob Hall |
| Brody Olson | Cole Johnson |
| 8. Dick Krogstad | 22. Cheryl Srnsky |
| 10. LaVonne F0rsberg | 23. Kayleigh Jesme |
| 11. Cody Weinen | 24. Brody Poe |
| Isabela Nelson | 25. Annah Haugen |
| 12. Andi Efteland | Kristen Bjerklie |
| Brooklyn Carlson | Hannah Holthouse |
| Jan Dillon | 26. Richard Holmes |
| 13. Tyson Gustafson | Marek Landgren |
| 14. Scott DCamp | 27. Baryth Halvorson |
| Teresa Fay | Rose Teie |
| Alyssa Nelson | Ken Niemela |
| Jami Philipp | 28. Aaron Myers |
| 15. Missy Hall | Hailey Kvick |
| Cameron Dahlin | 30. Olivia Schuster |



