



Reign of Christ Sunday

Godspeed for Pastor Gretchen and her Family

November 19, 2023 | 10 AM

WELCOME!

Welcome! It is a joy to worship together!

As a community in the model of Christ, we warmly welcome all who have come seeking God in worship at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. We welcome people of every race, gender, ethnic background, social status, physical ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Together in our diversity and as a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we seek to embrace the love of God offered to us in Jesus Christ. We gather to experience the presence of God in Word and Sacrament and to give praise to God who loves us unconditionally.

WORSHIP ONLINE OR BY PHONE

By phone: call 1-206-337-9723. Then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method will let you listen in, but not view the service.

- By Facebook Live: Go to www.facebook.com/ourredeemers. You don't have to have a facebook account – it's a public channel.
- By Zoom: Download the Zoom app to your computer, tablet, or cell phone. It's free! Click this link: <https://Zoom.us/j/822691346>. (Upgrade Zoom to the current version.)

All are Welcome to Communion! Christ hosts this meal, and ALL are invited to share this feast of life and forgiveness. We offer pre-packaged gluten-free/juice communion elements for those who prefer them. Our shared communion bread is gluten free, and we provide individual cups and grape juice for the health of everyone gathered. Children commune at the discretion of their parents. If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing. To receive communion at your seat, please alert an usher.

OUR VISION: In the model of Christ and for the life of the world, we are an inclusive, devoted, caring and spiritual community that accepts challenges, takes risks and grows.

We are on land created by God and stewarded for generations by the indigenous ancestors of the Duwamish people, who are still here. We honor the Creator's continuing presence in this land, confess our complicity in its brokenness, and awaken to our connectedness with all of creation.

GATHER

PRELUDE

We Gather Together arr. by John Carter

from "The Essential Collection for the Church Pianist" – Compiled & Edited by Jane Holstein,
Hope Publishing Company

WELCOME AND SILENT PREPARATION

*OPENING HYMN

Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands



1 Be - fore the An-cient One, Christ stands, en - robed in cloud and
2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in
3 Now in the lat - ter days you call, O Christ, and plead the



bright as snow, five wounds im - print his side, feet, hands, and
hu - man sphere; com - pas - sion was his di - a - dem; his
prem - ise clear, that pow - er grasped is none at all, and



thorns, the gar - land on his brow. Yet thrones and
glo - ry was the gen - tle tear; hu - mil - i -
serv - ing shows your Spir - it near. As na - tions



pow'rs fall to the knee and weave a song of maj - es - ty,
ty, his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb.
clash and wis - dom wanes, as glo - ries tempt and greed sus-tains,



for what the world ad - mires as gain is not the es - sence
Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the
you bid us choose in ev - 'ry hour the pow'r of love, the

**Please stand, as you are able.*

continued



of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and
tru - er strength, and through all space the host pro -
great - est pow'r, that love may her - ald God's do -

might, be - cause he pit - ied hu - mans' plight.
claims the name a - bove all oth - er names.
main, and you, at last, may come to reign.

One License #86222

*GREETING

Beloved of God, called to be saints:
Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Gracious God, in your beloved son, Jesus Christ,
you show us the way of service, and we inherit the riches of your grace.
Give us the wisdom to know what is right
and the strength to serve the world you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

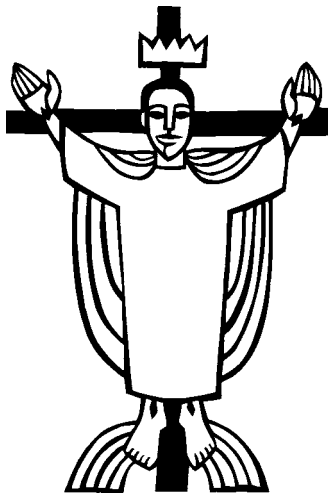
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people:

Our ears and hearts are open.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM

Selah (Psalm 46) - Mertes

God is our strength,
A very present help in trouble
So we will not fear tho the earth should change, the mountains shake
The waters will roar, the mountains will tremble, tremble
But we will not fear, God is our strength

CHORUS
Selah, selah
Selah, selah

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God
The holy habitation of the most high
God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved
God will help it when the morning dawns
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter
God utters his voice, the earth melts.

CHORUS

See the works of the Lord, see what God has brought to all the earth
God makes wars to cease, the whole world o'er, the whole world o'er
God breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire,
Be still and know that I am God

CHORUS

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

It's You - Mertes/Fund

Al - le - lu - ia ____ Lord, to whom shall we go? ____

5 3. It's You. It's you. You have ____ the

11 words of life. It's ____ You. Al - le - lu - ia. ____

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

May This Church Be Like a Tree



1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your
2 May this church be like a tree, there in the
3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and
street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -
thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.
branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.
way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised
May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just
of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its



high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of
round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry
wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that



jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.
pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.
names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

Refrain



Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.



Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

One License #13856

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation Ballard Sunday Dinner, and our Road to Housing program. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For what else do the people of God pray?

Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us. Unite us with them as one body of Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace by crossing hands over your heart, or another gesture, saying "Peace be with you."

MEAL

GENEROSITY STORY

Sonja Braasch

OFFERING SPECIAL MUSIC

Choir – *What Love Demands* by Mark Hayes

Vs. 1 – "What does it mean to love my neighbor? How can I live in harmony? Are you my brother or are you just another? When I look in your eyes, who do I see? I see you're made in the image of God, uniquely gifted with the right to be loved. Neighbor or stranger, how may I serve you? What does love demand?"

Refrain: "Love is list'ning with heartfelt compassion, holding the lonely, wiping a tear. Love demands that I live in the moment, to live in the question when the answer's unclear. With God as my strength I will be the change I want to see. For that's what love, that's what love demands."

Vs. 2 – "What can we do to stand for justice? What can we do so all are free? What can we do to end oppression, so all have the same opportunity? We will be God's hands and welcoming arms. We'll keep you safe from danger and harm. Homeless or helpless, how may we serve you? What does love demand? Take a stand. Lend a hand."

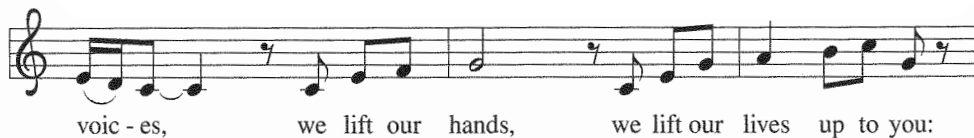
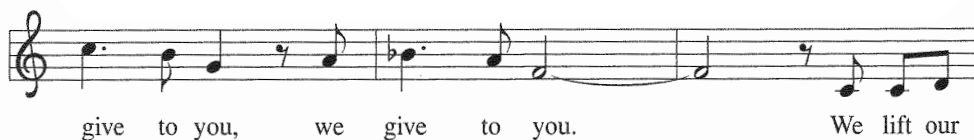
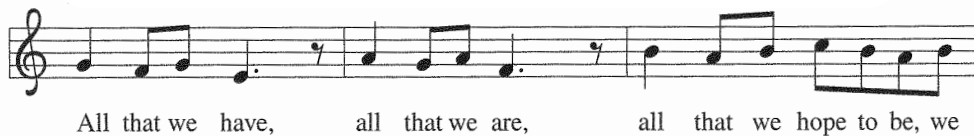
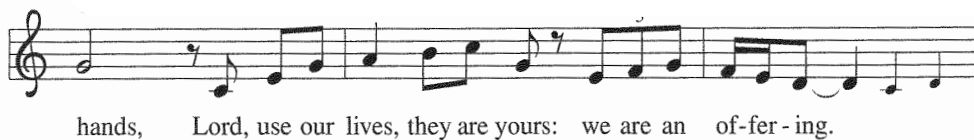
Refrain

Gifts may be made online at www.ourredeemers.net/donate, or use this QR code:



***OFFERING RESPONSE**

We Are An Offering



*OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;

in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,

and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The fourth system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

continued

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
 surrounded by evil and bordered by death
 we appeal to you,
 our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace
 and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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 relationship in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
the sacrifice of his life and death
and the victory of his resurrection,
we await with all the saints
his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son:
teach us your mercy and justice,
and make all things new in Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

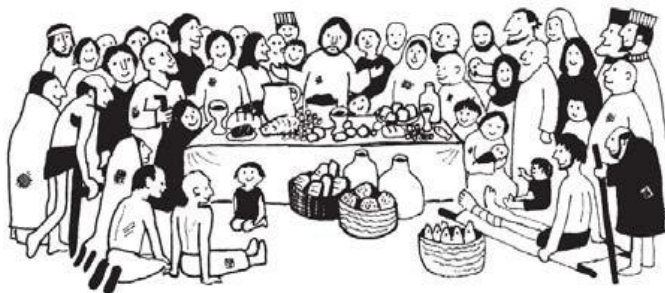
Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us in whatever version is most prayerful for you:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO THE MEAL**

There is a place for you at the table.
Come to Jesus' feast of love!

All Are Welcome
to commune, including children (as parents permit).



LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God (Schubert)

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

One License #118347

COMMUNION HYMNS

CHORUS

it's like a dance
it's like a wheel
less like math
less like a deal
more like a heartbreak
beginning to heal
we can start over
we know forgiveness

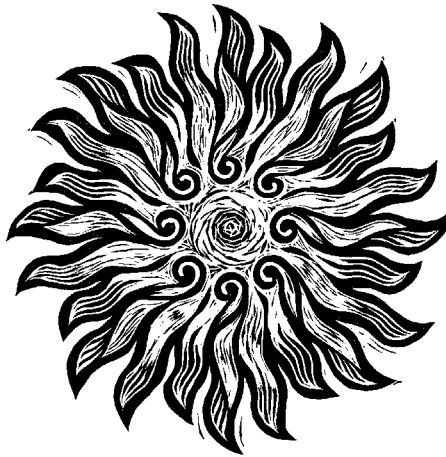
these are hard words to hear in a world where
nothing is free
and it's hard to trust in a promise that sounds
too good to believe
but know that it's true
this is for you

Forgiveness Waltz - by Jonathan Rundman

CHORUS

it's so easy to drown
in the numbers and judgements and earnings
keeping score, keeping track, keeping time
as the hours keep turning
but you can turn a new way
it's a new day

CHORUS



Come Now, You Blessed



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"
2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,
4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,
look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home - less,
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
What have we done that you call us your own?
you cared for me in the small - est of these."
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

One License #20653

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed

fail - eth nev - er; I, noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Public Domain

***TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
Amen.

SENDING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a feast.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

GODSPEED FOR PASTOR GRETCHEN AND HER FAMILY

Bishop Wee:

In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of the body of Christ. From that baptismal call, you were called into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. At your ordination twenty-one years ago, you received authority to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments. When you were installed as Our Redeemer's pastor, eight years ago, you were called to revive the informal worship within this congregation, and partner with the congregation to invigorate their social justice and programmatic ministry. We give thanks for the gifts you have shared and for your love, humor, and dedication. May God continue to bless both you and Our Redeemer's as you move into new futures, apart from one another.

Tom Bernard:

Pastor Gretchen Evangeline Weller Mertes, on September 21, 2015, we of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church called you to be pastor in this place: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world.

You have served our congregation faithfully for eight years. You are now leaving our midst. As your fellow members of this part of the Body of Christ, we wish to honor your ministry among us and to bid you and your family farewell and Godspeed in your new endeavors, bringing closure to your ministry at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church.

Pastor Gretchen:

I thank you, my siblings in Christ,
for the love, kindness, and support shown to me and my family.
I am grateful for the ministry we have shared together.
With joy, I recall what we accomplished with God's help,
and with sadness those dreams not fulfilled.
I ask your forgiveness for mistakes made and expectations not met.

Congregation:

**We receive your gratitude
and forgive your shortcomings.**

A brief silence for reflection.

**As we offer our forgiveness
and celebrate all that God has accomplished among us,
we express our gratitude for your ministry with us.
We ask your forgiveness for mistakes made and for expectations not met.**

Pastor Gretchen:

I receive your gratitude
and forgive your shortcomings.

*The pastor and congregation representative(s) and bishop go to font, pulpit, altar, and doors
with this litany:*

(at the font) Marie Lessard:

At this font you have baptized many into the death and new life in Christ, and into God's family of grace. You have taught us baptism calls us all to a life of service and truth. As you leave this font, we thank you for presiding at the sacrament of baptism, and pray you will find fresh ways to live out your own baptism.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

(at the table) Jenny Fredericks:

At this table you have presided at the sacrament of Holy Communion. You have repeatedly welcomed all in Christ's name, without requirement or restriction. You have reminded us of the inexhaustible abundance of God's grace, and our call to share all we have and all we are, freely and without fear. As you leave this table, we thank you for inviting us to receive and become Christ's presence in Holy Communion.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

(at the pulpit) Shelbe Kukowski:

At this pulpit you have proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ. You have comforted us in our afflictions and have disrupted our complacency, deepening our faithful lives in the gospel. You have celebrated passages in our lives, in healing prayer, weddings, funerals, and confirmations. As you leave this pulpit and this sanctuary, we thank you for your teaching, preaching, and care among us.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

(at the doors) Stephanie Fowler:

When you came here, you received the keys to this building. You welcomed strangers. Your door was open to us in times of crisis and times of joy. Your heart was always open to hear our confessions, and to speak words of grace. You have laughed with us and sang with us. You have helped us become a better community which in turn exists for the larger community, and especially for those on the margins. As you return your keys, we thank you for your leadership, prayers, wisdom and careful listening.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A prayer shawl is wrapped around the pastor's shoulders.

Bishop Wee:

Pastor Gretchen, Never think lightly of the great good God has wrought through you. Continue to be true to your calling.

People of God, Never think lightly of the great good God has wrought and will continue to bring about through you. Continue to be true to your calling.

Pastor Gretchen:

People of Our Redeemer's, I release you from the vows and promises made at my installation. May God's love and grace be with you always.

Congregation:

Pastor Gretchen, we release you from your promises to us, and we offer you our blessing. May God's love and grace be with you always.

Bishop Wee:

Your siblings in the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America give thanks to God for the ministry you have shared. We promise you our continued support and prayer.

Rejoicing in the blessings of God in this congregation and in the ministry of Pastor Gretchen, and with hope in God's abundant grace in years to come, I announce that Gretchen Mertes' service as pastor in this congregation is now concluded.

Pastor Gretchen:

Receive this blessing...

***BLESSING**

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Thine the Amen



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

One License #85921

***DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing arr. by Becki Slagle Mayo
from "The Essential Collection for the Church Pianist" – Compiled & Edited by Jane Holstein,
Hope Publishing Company



We Pray for...

Kelsey Apt, Bill Best, Yvonne Boon, Jennifer Carter, Cathy Farr, Chris & Rusty Huffstetter, Helen Jones, Bob McIntyre, Barbara Olsen, Sally Parker-Henderson, Jean Perry, Frank Peters, Trina Prisk-Hall, Harold & Pauline Sigurdson, Carolyn Swanson, Charlotte Wallstrom, Steve Wessel, Janet Woodfield; all married couples struggling with conflict and separation, immigrant families remaining separated, Road to Housing guests.

Grieving the Loss of

Rick Laine, June Pfeiffer

To include someone in the prayers, email the church -or- fill out the online prayer request form: [LINK](#). (Requests received after each Wednesday will be put in the following week's bulletin. Gianfranco Foddai

IN OUR SERVICE TODAY

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Gretchen Mertes
Assistant Minister: Julie Vannoy
Lector: Barbara Smith
Setting the Communion Table: Marie Nordquist
Communion Assistant: Linda Carbone
Greeter: Judith Malmgren
Ushers: Connie Sandstrom, Kris Rogness
Zoom Host: Erica Lee
Musicians: Karen Lee, Gianfranco Foddai, Betsy McGregor, Our Redeemer's Choir

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Our Staff

Pastor Gretchen Mertes x103

pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net

Pastor David Hahn

Interim Pastor

pastordavid@ourredeemers.net

651.587.417

Gianfranco Foddai

Informal Worship / Music Director

gianfranco@ourredeemers.net

Karen Lee

Traditional Worship / Music Director

karen@ourredeemers.net

Debbie Lematta x105

Communications Coordinator

communications@ourredeemers.net

Mandy Neill x102

Welcome Ministry

welcome@ourredeemers.net

Karie Stearns x101

Parish Administrator

administrator@ourredeemers.net

**www.ourredeemers.net | 206.783.7900
2400 NW 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98117**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more details, check the website calendar or current newsletter.



worship

9 AM Informal Worship | In-person

In this hour-long service, an ensemble leads us in a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary music. We hear a challenging and thoughtful message, pray together and take communion. Children are welcome and, for the little ones, our staffed nursery is open.

11 AM Traditional Worship | In-person & Online

The 11:00 am service is liturgy deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition of God's living word. Join together in prayer, familiar hymns and communion at God's all-welcoming table. We wish one another peace and blessings and leave the service more connected, challenged and hopeful than before.

Christmas Pageant - Help Needed!

Please consider helping out with the Christmas Pageant on December 17th. The work is creative and easy! Basically, you and other adults will work with the kids and guide them so they know what to do and when. The script, costumes, props, and music are ready! There will be one short practice and a day of kid management and support. If you're interested in helping out, contact welcome@ourredeemers.net.



social justice

A FORCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

A Community Thanksgiving For All

Thursday, November 23 | Our Redeemer's

Volunteers are still needed, especially people to serve as Table

Hosts. Table Hosts dine with the folks there, help to ensure that everyone gets food, distribute free sleeping bag tickets, and get to know the people there. It's a special job - ensuring that grace is shown and every person is honored at this meal of gratitude. Learn more and sign up here: <https://rebrand.ly/1xjhx17>.

We are also asking for contributions to cover the cost of the Thanksgiving meal and to purchase sleeping bags and wool socks. Please give what you can using this link: <https://rb.gy/jlh85>. Thank you!



community

"Greening of the Church" for Advent & Christmas

Saturday, November 25, 9–noon; Sunday, November 26, 1–3 PM
Do you love decorating for the holidays? Are you around Thanksgiving weekend? **We need your help putting up trees and lights, inside and out**, and for general decorating for the season! We will be working on Saturday, November 25th from 9:00 am to noon in the interior of the church. There will be a crew outside the next day, Sunday, from 1–3 pm putting up outdoor lights and garland. Just show up on Saturday or Sunday! Thank you for making our church a beautiful and welcoming space for all.

A leader is desperately needed for our February 2024 auction. Here's your chance to be creative, collaborate with others, and help out the church! Contact welcome@ourredeemers.net for more information about our annual fundraiser and how you can help out!

Women's Retreat

May 3–5 | Seabeck Conference Center (Registration Deadline Extended into January)

Anyone who identifies as female is invited on May 3–5th to Seabeck Conference center on Hood Canal. It's a time of building community, digging deeper, and finding inspiration in God and one another. The cost is \$290 for the entire weekend (full or partial Scholarships are available by request). A \$58 deposit is due at registration. Paper registration forms are available in the church office, or fill out this Google form: <https://forms.gle/KjrdpQF8ZhwNP3ez5>.

Holden Registration is Open!

July 14–21 | Holden Village

Do you long for time in nature, more time to spend with your fellow parishioners, or a break from email and social media? Well, you're in luck! Our Redeemer's is going to Holden Village next summer and registration is now OPEN! Choose from a 5-day or 7-day stay. Come to Holden this summer! **Register using this LINK** (<https://rebrand.ly/5174bf>).

Unashamed Generosity

A huge **thank you** to everyone who gave generously during our Stewardship Campaign. **If you haven't given, there's still time!** Please allow the Spirit to move you toward greater generosity by turning in your giving card, increasing the amount you give, or setting up your online giving: www.ourredeemers.net/donate.

This Week at Our Redeemer's

Today, Sunday, November 19

10 AM - Worship & Godspeed for Pastor
Gretchen & Family

12 PM - Pastor Gretchen's Going Away Potluck

2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard First
Lutheran

Tuesday, November 21

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting

7 PM - Council Meeting

7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

Thursday, November 23

THANKSGIVING

12 - 1 PM - Community Thanksgiving |
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 26

ADVENT BEGINS

9 AM - Informal Worship

11 AM - Traditional Worship

Email administrator@ourredeemers.net if you need online or in-person meeting help. Find meeting information in the announcements in this bulletin or on the church's [website calendar](#).



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Seattle, WA 98117