



Faithful Stewards

Rev. Ramon Contreras

September 21, 2025 ~ 8:30am

REDEEMER BY THE SEA ~ "A PLACE TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN"

We are honored to recognize our niche in God's Kingdom work. Here we will faithfully worship and teach in alignment with God's Word and we're a small enough fellowship where you can know and be known by most of the people around you if that's your desire. Here you will be missed if you're gone and prayed for when you have needs. You are welcome to contact the office (kay@redeemerbythesea.org) to get connected

UPCOMING EVENTS: www.RedeemerbytheSea.org		
TODAY	~11:30am	Voter's Meeting
Sept. 25th	9:00am	The Rush Coffee Truck
	9:30am	MomCo
Oct. 4th	9:00am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Oct. 14th	9:30am	LWM Meeting
	10:15am	"Strengthening Our Military Families"
Oct. 19th	10:15am	One Combined Worship Service
	11:30am	Fall Festival

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN (please stand)

"Christ the Eternal Lord"

LSB 829



- 1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
- 2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
- 3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,
- 4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,
- 5 Christ the as - cend - ed King Ex - alt - ed high a - bove,



Whose gifts of grace are free-ly poured On all who name Your name;
Whose time-less teach-ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip-ture's page;
And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;
Our Morn-ing Star in splen-dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
Whose praise un - end - ing a - ges sing, Whom yet un - seen we love;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,
That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,
When mor - tal life is past Your voice from heav-en's throne



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour-ney ends.
Shall call Your chil - dren home at last To know as we are known.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text: © 1999 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110016216
Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

(silence for further personal reflection and specific confession)

Pastor: Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

CREATE IN ME

LSB 192

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.'

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Pastor: For you who believe and trust that Jesus is God and Savior, through Him and for His sake God has heard our prayer. The Father sent His Son into our world, to die for us and to rise again that we may have new life. As a called and ordained servant of the word, and at the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I announce the grace of God unto all you, your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

GREET ONE ANOTHER AND SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OLD TESTAMENT READING (please be seated)

Amos 8: 4-7: (ESV)

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, ⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, ⁶ that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?" ⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE (please stand)

LSB 205



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 16:1–15 (ESV)

Pastor: The Gospel reading today comes from Luke chapter 16.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ² And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³ And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷ Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



1 On Gal - i - lee's high moun-tain Christ gave the great com - mand
 2 The Lord who, born of Mar - y, Came down as man and died,
 3 His strength with - in my weak-ness Will make me bold to say
 4 And not a - lone to na - tions In far - a - way re - treats,



In words of strength and prom - ise Which all can un - der-stand:
 Who preached to all who lis-tened, For us was cru - ci - fied—
 How His re - deem - ing pow - er Trans-forms my stub-born clay;
 But ev - 'ry-where I broad-cast His love through crowd-ed streets:



"All pow'r to Me is giv - en To do what I shall choose;
 This Lord, our liv - ing broth - er, In pow'r at God's right hand,
 His touch of fire ig - nites me, With cour - age I am sent,
 The lives that my life touch - es, How - ev - er great or small—



There - fore I send My chil-dren, Their wit - ness I will use."
 Has cho - sen us to car - ry His truth to ev - 'ry land.
 My tongue - tied si - lence bro - ken, With grace made el - o - quent.
 Let them through me see Je - sus, Who served and saved us all.

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932–96Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 Text: © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110016216 Tune: Public domain

MESSAGE

"Faithful Stewards"

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (please stand)

Pastor: *(concluding each petition)* Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

THE 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.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING GOD'S PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI *(You May Be Seated)*

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION (please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Jesus Shall Reign"

LSB 832

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less
ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793 Text and tune: Public domain

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (please stand)

Pastor: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Spread the Reign of God the Lord"

LSB 830



- 1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;
- 2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
- 3 Tell of our Re-deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race
- 4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. composite

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord with joy.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"We're Marching to Zion"

Arr. by Gordon Young

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *ESV*. UBP. ARR.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 CPH

The flowers on the altar today were donated by BJ Campbell-Lahr
to three of the most favorite and wonderful people in my life –
Paul, Diana Jeanne and Susan.

WORSHIP | GROW | SERVE

OFFERINGS: *Visitors: please consider yourselves our guests and do not feel obligated to participate in the offering.* In faithful

obedience and joyful response to God's grace in our lives, we humbly and gratefully bring our tithes (a regular first portion percentage of our income) and offerings (gifts over and above our tithes for other kingdom work). You may deposit your envelope, check, or cash in the box next to the exit; give online with your phone using the QR code at right or text "GIVE" to 442-222-2448. All these options are on our website:



www.redeemerbythesea.org/donate/.

VOTER'S MEETING TODAY: Our next congregational meeting is set for **TODAY Sept. 21st, after the 2nd service (about 11:30am)**, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. The agenda will include the 2025/2026 budget.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE: The Call Committee is pleased to announce that we have selected the leading candidate for our next Pastor. He is currently arranging coverage to allow him to visit Redeemer. During this visit, he will meet with our Leadership Team and participate in worship services, offering members of the congregation an opportunity to meet him.

The candidate is Rev. Eli Johannes Thomas, who serves at 2 Churches in Washington, Grace Lutheran (*Traditional*) in Longview and Christ Community (*Contemporary*) in Ridgefield and has said he loves both traditional and contemporary worship. As a colloquy into the LCMS, he brings a broad perspective on ministry beyond the Lutheran tradition. Ordained on Sept 29, 2013, he has been described by his current District President as contemporary, with a highly evangelical approach to ministry and mission.

MOMCO and THE RUSH COFFEE TRUCK SEPT. 25th: MOMCO is a great way to tackle motherhood together. The Fall Kickoff is underway. The next session will be on **Thurs. Sept 25th**. The Rush Coffee Truck will be here from 9-9:30 and then join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall at **9:30am**. Invite a friend to join you. Email Chase De Gaine: **chasedegaine@gmail.com** for more information.

NEW MEMBER CLASS COMING: This class is for those who want to become a member at Redeemer by the Sea or want more information on the Lutheran faith. The Elders will be leading. If interested, please email: **office@redeemerbythesea.org** by **Oct. 10th**. The Elders will then work with participants to select a date and time for the class.

LWM MEETING AND PROGRAM ON OCT. 14TH: The next business meeting for Lutheran Women in Mission (LWM) will be on **Tues. Oct. 14th at 9:30am**. Following the meeting at **10:15am**, our speaker will be Samantha Holt, Executive Director of The Armed Services YMCA Camp Pendleton. The YMCA's programs empower young people, improve health and well-being, and provide support, and inspire action in our communities. This program looks to be quite informative. All are welcome to come find out more about "Strengthening Our Military Families."

BIRTH CHOICE 2025 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET: Please join Jerry Meyer at the annual Birth Choice Fundraising Banquet on **Sat. Oct. 11th** at The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa. Founded in 1987, Birth Choice of San Marcos is a non-profit, Pregnancy Medical Center that offers free support services related to pregnancy and sexual health for men and women in a confidential and compassionate environment. Birth Choice of San Marcos takes a holistic approach to healthcare and is dedicated to caring for the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare of our clients. Use this QR code to register and choose Jerry as your table host.



SIGN-UPS NOW OPEN FOR FALL FESTIVAL! Please help us to be prepared with **food/beverage and volunteers by RSVPing online for this fun event.** On **Sun. Oct. 19th**. We will have one Combined Worship Service with Preschool Teacher Installation at 10:15am, followed immediately by the Fall Festival. The fun includes Trunk-or-Treat, a petting zoo, pony rides, inflatables, professional photos, BBQ, & more! Costumes encouraged!

WELCOME PASTOR RAMON CONTRERAS TODAY: My mom was of Dutch/Italian descent, my dad was Caribbean, and I was born in Southern Mexico in the state of Oaxaca. I received my BA in Theology and Philosophy in Mexico City, 1992-1996. I hold a Master of Sociology from International Center for Superior Studies, 1996-1999. I hold a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO, and a Master of Arts and Theology from Concordia University, Irvine, 2000-2004. From 1997 to 1999 I worked for Lutheran Hour Ministries as a media and public relationships coordinator, Mexico office. From 2004 to 2009 I planted two congregations in the LA area, one in Messiah, Downey, and another bilingual, English/Spanish, Word of God (Palabra de Dios) in Maywood, CA. Since 2010 I'm the Coordinator for LBCM (Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry) where we help people in the south of the border with both, material and spiritual, needs. Since 2015, I'm the founder and director for Bible Institute Sola Gracia Sola Fe in the border region of CA/Baja/Arizona/Sonora states. I was the district pastoral counselor for LWML in the Pacific Southwest District, 2017-2023. In 2021 I was awarded by Concordia University, Irvine, CA (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) with the Christus Mundo Award.

SERMON NOTES

Date ____/____/____

Series/Title: _____

NOTES:

MAIN POINTS:

ACTION/REFLECTION/PRAYER: