



"The Greatest Light of All"

Pastor John Fiene

December 14, 2025 ~ 8:30am

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).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

www.RedeemerbytheSea.org/announcements

Dec. 14th	9:45am	Voter's Meeting
Dec. 14th		Angel Tree Deadline
Dec. 19th	5:30pm	Women's Friday Fellowship
Dec. 24th	3:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

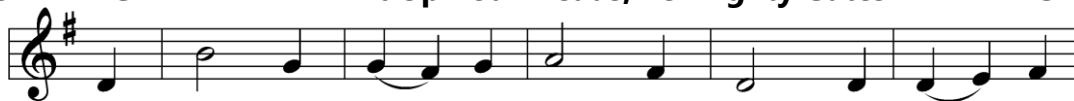
WELCOME

OPENING

Luther's Catechism on Baptism

People: **How can water do such great things?**

Pastor: Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8).



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - jice and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence for further personal reflection and specific confession)

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 14:1-7

Pastor: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.

People: The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

Pastor: They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

People: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the Lord?

Pastor: There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

People: You would shame the plans of the poor, but the Lord is his refuge.

Pastor: Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

People: When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

GREET ONE ANOTHER AND SHARE GOD'S PEACE

INTRODUCTION AND OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 4:2-6

In that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. ³ And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, ⁴ when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. ⁵ Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. ⁶ There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION AND EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 1:22-25

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-45

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter:

People: Glory to you, O Lord._

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?⁴⁴ For

behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

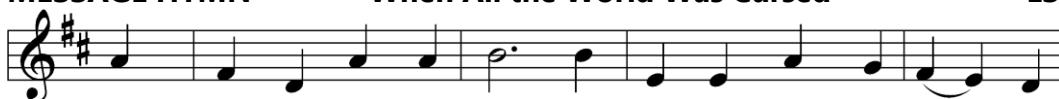
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the 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.

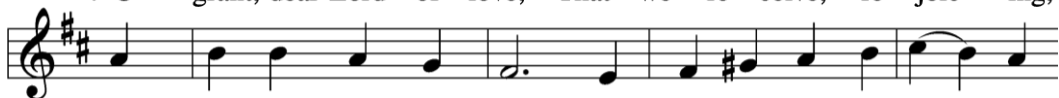
MESSAGE HYMN

“When All the World Was Cursed”

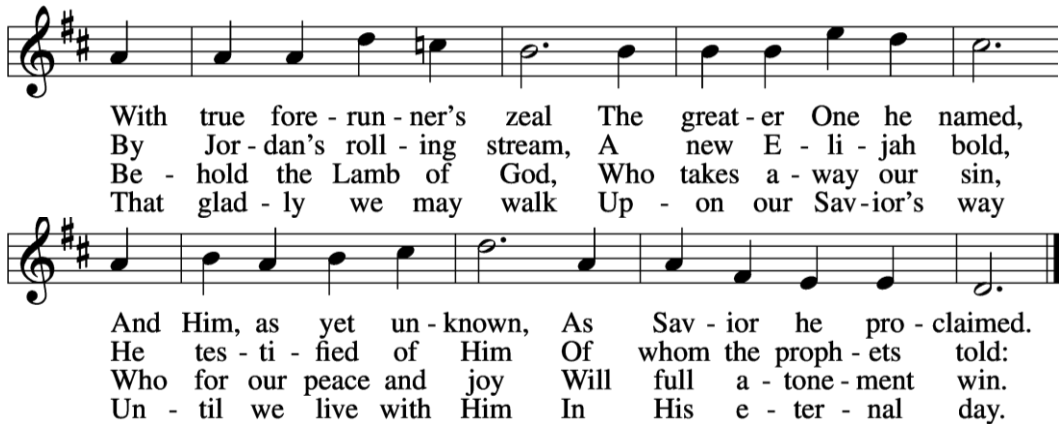
LSB 346



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,
2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,
3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.
Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.
Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.
The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,



With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,
 By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,
 Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,
 That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way

And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.
 He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.
 Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

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MESSAGE

"The Greatest Light of All"

Pastor John Fiene

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

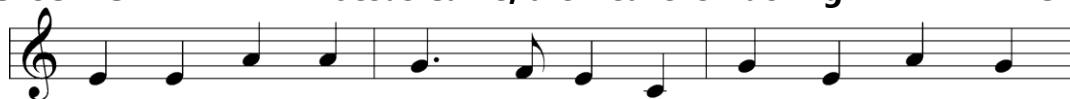
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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**“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”****LSB 353**

1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt Text and tune: Public domain

SENDING

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

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE**‘Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts’ (Christmas Oratorio**

by Camille Saint-Saëns

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - Divine Service, Setting One from LSB. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *NIV*. UBP. ARR. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 CPH

This week's flowers were donated to GOD'S glory by Suzanne Hughes.

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, or text "GIVE" to 442-222-2448. All of these options are also available on our **website: www.redeemerbythesea.org/donate/**



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE: We're pleased to announce that the congregation unanimously voted to extend a call to Pastor Eli Thomas to be our next Pastor. The call package has been sent and he will have time to prayerfully deliberate about what God is directing him to do. It is not uncommon for Pastors to take 30-45 days to consider a call. In the meantime, please pray for Pastor Thomas, his wife Jennifer, their children and his congregations. We trust in the Lord and in the Call Process, and we know that God in His mercy is our great provider.

VOTER'S MEETING: Our quarterly Voter's meeting will be **TODAY at 9:45am** (in between services) in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to hold our annual election of the church council. Please plan to attend and stay informed of what's happening at Redeemer by the Sea!

ANGEL TREE – DEADLINE IS TODAY! Support local military families by donating a \$25 gift card through Redeemer online. In return, you'll receive an angel ornament with a child's name on it to pray for during the holiday season. This program helps Camp Pendleton Marines and their families in San Diego. Thank you!



ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP: During this busy Advent season, take a moment to reflect on this special season of light by worshiping with us **Wednesday at 5:30pm** for an Evening Prayer Service **at 5:30pm** in the sanctuary.

*** These services will not be live-streamed. ***

WOMEN'S FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP: Fri. Dec. 19th at 5:30pm for Happy Hour and Bible Study with friends from RBTS. Our hostess will be Barbara Gehring. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided, but please bring your own beverage. RSVP online to obtain the address and directions.

POINSETTIAS FOR OUR SANCTUARY: Help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas by donating a poinsettia. The cost is \$13.00 each and is available on our website. Your poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT: In the spirit of the season, it has been a tradition at Redeemer to bless our staff with a financial Christmas bonus from the congregation. The gift gets divided proportionally among our team of three part time office administrators, six musicians, a sound tech, a Sunday School Superintendent, a confirmation teacher and a nursery worker who all do so much to bless and equip us. If you feel so led, please express your appreciation to them with an over and above financial gift. Please include the memo of "staff gift" on the envelope or check. These can be dropped into the offering box at the back of the sanctuary, mailed in, or you can make this gift through our website by selecting the "Staff Christmas Gift" on the donate page.

WELCOME REV. DR. JOHN FIENE: Rev. Dr. John Fiene has been a Church Planter of Grace Lutheran Church in Sandy City, Utah, and later, Advent Lutheran Church, Zionsville, Indiana. Both congregations, subsequent to their own founding, initiated successful new mission congregations. He recently served as pastor at University Lutheran Chapel on the UC campus in Boulder, CO. Pastor Fiene has served as Vice-President of the Indiana District of the LCMS and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain District. He has taught on the subject of mission planting as an adjunct professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana as well as various pastors' conferences. Pastor Fiene and his wife Solvig Fiene (nie. Preus) currently live in Carlsbad and they have 4 children (3 in California) and 13 grand children.