

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

904 Bluff Street Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

A traditional, liturgical, Biblical congregation in the heart of Cedar Falls ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Christ.

Rev. Michael R. Knox, Pastor
(319) 231-9761

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor
(319) 389-5526

Matthew Baker, Vicar
(605) 342-0259

Church Office: 266-2509

Email: orlc@cfu.net Website: theforgivenessplace.org

The 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 26, 2023

TO OUR VISITORS We rejoice that you have joined us this morning to hear the Word of God, receive His gifts of life and salvation, and to respond to His faithfulness with “Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” *Ephesians 5:19*

- ✘ Please take the time to fill out the Communion Registration/Visitors’ Cards which are in the small card holders on the pew.
- ✘ Please read the announcement below regarding Communion.
- ✘ Guests who will not be communing may place the Visitor’s card in the Offering plate.
- ✘ Guests who intend to commune are asked to announce this intention to the Elder and give the card to the Usher as they come forward to receive communion.

OUR REDEEMER PRACTICES CLOSED COMMUNION



The Sacrament of the Altar is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink, instituted by Christ Himself. As we receive this Sacrament, the oneness of fellowship at the Altar (I Corinthians 10:17) presupposes a oneness in doctrine with the Apostles (Acts 2:42). For this reason the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of Closed Communion. If you desire to receive the Lord’s Supper and are not a communicant member of Our Redeemer or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning. Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Knox,

Pastor Saunders, or Vicar Baker about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation.

THOSE SERVING GOD’S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Rod Lair **Service Assistant:** Steven Dekutoski

Organist: Roxann List **Ushers:** Al Nissen, Dean Garms

Tellers: Dean Fink, Tom Strub **Shut-Ins:** Sara Lair

TODAY IS THE 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - *The Last Sunday of the Church Year.* It is the third of three Sundays at the end of the Church Year in which the Lord’s glorious return to judge the living and the dead is central.

Many in this world are oblivious to the coming day of our Lord’s return. They scoff at the Word of God and use the cover of night to pursue their own sinful desires.

This is not new in your generation. Already in the first century, the Apostle Peter proclaimed to the Church, *“This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, ‘Where is the promise of his coming?’”* (II Peter 3)

But the Word proclaimed by the watchmen of God speaks of the day for which you wait. It is a day to look forward to with great anticipation, for the Church’s hope is fixed in Jesus Christ *“who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.”* (Jude 24) When He appears, He will inaugurate a new, heavenly Jerusalem from which sin and death will be eternally banished.

As the Church waits for this day, Her hope is sustained by God’s Word. The foolish hear that Word, but do not receive it in childlike faith. For them, the day of Christ’s coming will be horrible. In contrast, the wise gather to hear the Word and keep eager watch for the Bridegroom’s arrival.



The Scriptures picture heaven as a wedding banquet. Each Sunday throughout the Church Year, the people of God have rehearsed the work of the Bridegroom which makes the invitation to the heavenly banquet possible. In fact, the Bridegroom is already here with His Church. Having been given the proper wedding garments in Holy Baptism, the people of Christ's Church gather with their fellow wedding guests to share the body and the blood of their Lord. In the final words of the of the first distribution Hymn,

*Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
 The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.*

I. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Service begins with a Procession.

After the Bell rings, please rise to face the Processional Crucifix and the singing of the Processional Hymn.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" LSB #465

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
 △ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And

praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!

He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our

clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly

here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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Tune: Public domain

Remain Standing

Introit



Cantor: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*

In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your | righteousness!

Cong: Enter not into judgment with Your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore You.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | You have done;*
I ponder the work | of Your hands.

I stretch out my | hands to You;*
my soul thirsts for You like a | parched land.

Teach me to do Your will, for You | are my God!*

Let Your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!

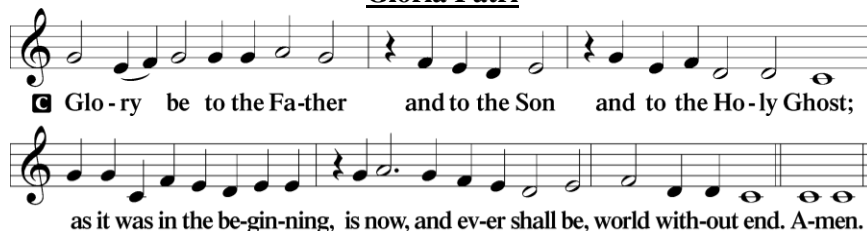
For Your name's sake, O Lord, pre- | serve my life!*

In Your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

Cantor: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*

In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your | righteousness! (Ps. 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: Ps. 143:1)

Gloria Patri

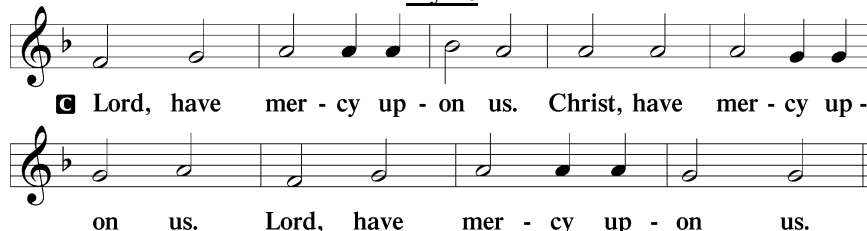


Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

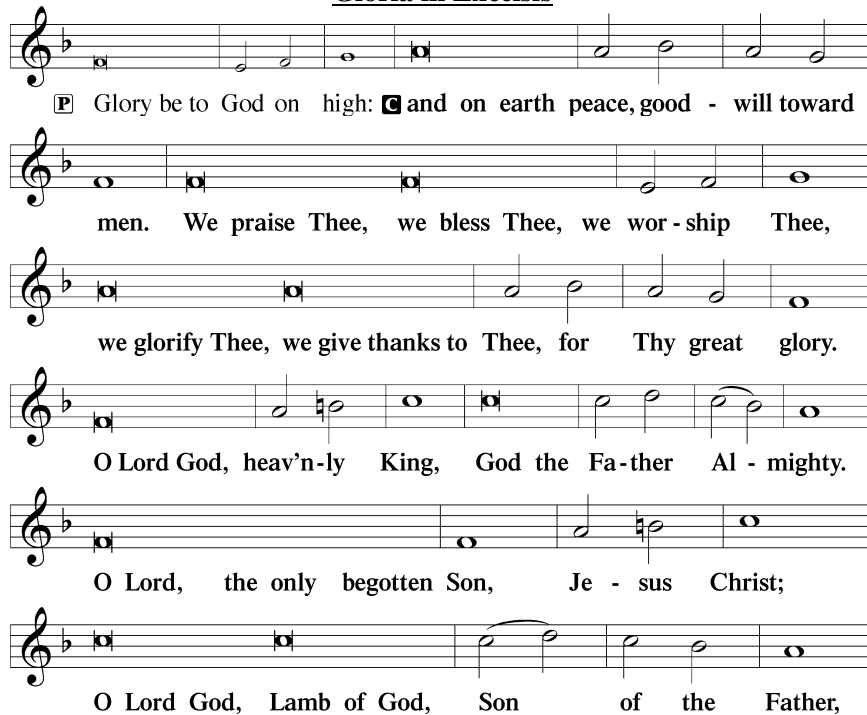


Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

The Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

II Timothy 4:22

The Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray: Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Be seated

The Old Testament

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn

"Father, We Thank Thee" LSB #652

1 Fa - ther, we thank Thee who hast plant - ed Thy ho - ly
 2 Watch o'er Thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, Save it from
 name with - in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im -
 e - vil, guard it still, Per - fect it in Thy love, u -
 mor - tal Je - sus, Thy Son, to us im - parts.
 nite it, Cleansed and con-formed un - to Thy will.

Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure, Didst
 As grain, once scattered on the hillsides, Was
 give us food for all our days, Giving in Christ the
 in this broken bread made one, So from all lands Thy
 Bread eternal; Thine is the power, be Thine the praise.
 Church begathered into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.

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The Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Alleluia/Verse

☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Cantor: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first | and the last, *
 the beginning | and the end. *(Revelation 22:13)*

☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Matthew, the 25th chapter.

☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The 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

The Hymn of The Day

“ In the Very Midst of Life ” #755



1 In the ver - y midst of life Snares of death sur - round us;
2 In the midst of death's dark vale Pow'rs of hell o'er - take us.
3 In the midst of ut - ter woe When our sins op - press us,



Who shall help us in the strife Lest the foe con - found us?
Who will help when they as - sail, Who se - cure will make us?
Where shall we for ref - uge go, Where for grace to bless us?



Thou on - ly, Lord, Thou on - ly! We mourn that we have great - ly
Thou on - ly, Lord, Thou on - ly! Thy heart is moved with ten - der -
To Thee, Lord Je - sus, on - ly! Thy pre - cious blood was shed to



erred, That our sins Thy wrath have stirred. Ho - ly and righ - teous God!
ness, Pit - ies us in our dis - tress. Ho - ly and righ - teous God!
win Full a - tone - ment for our sin. Ho - ly and righ - teous God!



Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful
Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful
Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful



Sav - ior! E - ter - nal Lord God! Save us lest we per - ish
Sav - ior! E - ter - nal Lord God! Save us from the ter - ror
Sav - ior! E - ter - nal Lord God! Lord, pre - serve and keep us



In the bit - ter pangs of death. Have mer - cy, O Lord!
Of the fi - ery pit of hell. Have mer - cy, O Lord!
In the peace that faith can give. Have mer - cy, O Lord!

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The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

The Offertory

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.

The Prayers

Various Petitions are prayed. Each petition will conclude with the response:

P: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

The Congregation, gathered for worship in person, will now be receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. This most significant portion of the Divine Service, when our Lord Jesus Christ draws near to His people with His flesh and blood, will not be streamed. Members desiring to receive the Sacrament who are unable to be present in the Church will be visited by one of our pastors to bring them the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Those who have joined us online for the Service of the Word are now encouraged to pray 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.**

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Please call Pastor Knox (319/231-9761) if you would like to receive a Pastoral visit.

✠ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✠

Sun. 11/26	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class
Mon. 11/27	9:00 a.m.	Vicar's Bible Study at Our Redeemer
Tue. 11/28	7:00 p.m.	Vicar's Bible Study at Peace-Shell Rock
Wed. 11/29	10:00 a.m.	Book Club
	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	5:25 p.m.	Adult Choir
	6:15 p.m.	Youth Bible Study with Vicar
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
Sat. 12/1	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
Sun. 12/2	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class

HYMNS/READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, December 3 – The 1st Sunday in Advent

Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9, I Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 11:1-10

Invocation: Savior of the Nations, Come332

Cong. stanzas 1-2, 5-6, 8 Choirs 3, 4, 7

Gradual: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.....338

Hymn of the Day: Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors 339

Choir stanza 3

Distribution: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates340

Distribution: What Hope! An Eden Prophesied342

Distribution: O Bride of Christ, Rejoice.....335

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. This class is currently studying the Book of Revelation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. Parents, the children are working on music and recitations for the Christmas Music Festival on December 17.

WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. to study the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday. It is a way to prepare for the coming week's Divine Service. During Advent the evening class will meet following the Midweek Service.

THE VICAR'S BIBLE STUDY Vicar Baker's class meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month at 9:00 a.m. The class also meets at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings of the same week at Peace in Shell Rock. In December the class will meet on the 11th and 12th.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet for Bible Study with our Vicar on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. (There will be food on Wednesdays at 6:15) On Sunday mornings the youth will be studying 1 Corinthians, comparing the experience of the Christians in largely pagan Corinth with our circumstances today. During Advent the youth will not meet on Wednesdays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE MEN'S CHOIR will sing again during Advent. Men – if you would like to sing with them next time, they have short rehearsals following Bible study on Sunday mornings. Please speak with Vicar Baker if you are interested in singing.

UPDATED PHOTO DIRECTORY Sometime after the New Year we will be printing a new Congregational Photo Directory. If you would like to update your photo, Tammy will be taking photos for the next several weeks in the lower level of the Education Wing during refreshment time.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES will begin on Wednesday, December 6 with services at Noon and 6:30 p.m. Services will be held on December 6, 13, and 20. This year throughout Advent we will focus our attention on the words of the Epistle readings for the week. Advent Services will also be held at Peace Lutheran on Tuesday evenings of the same week at 7:00 p.m.



ANGEL TREE Our Redeemer is again hosting an Angel Tree, working with the Salvation Army and Cedar Valley Friends of the Family. The Angel Tree is in the Parish Hall with tags for the Salvation Army clients, all children, and an adult individual client with Friends of the Family. Feel free to take a tag, shop for the items (or some of the items) on the tag. Return the tag and the item back to church, placing it in the large box by the tree, by Dec. 7. Please note, the Salvation Army gifts are to be returned UNWRAPPED. The items for the Friends of the Family individual may be wrapped. Want to help, but hate to shop? The Christian Care committee members would be glad to take monetary donations and do the shopping for you. Money can be given to Char Strub. Thank you to those that can share their abundance, brightening another's holiday season. **RETURN TAGS AND GIFTS BY DECEMBER 7TH**

TEXT BLAST INFORMATION Included with your bulletin during the past several weeks, and available again in the Narthex today, is an information sheet provided by the Communication and Outreach Committee. (Printed on Green paper) Our Redeemer uses a computer software program entitled "Church 360" to keep track of membership, record offerings, and track church attendance. A new feature was recently added which allows congregational leadership to send a text message to the congregation in the event that important or last minute information needs to be provided quickly. If you would like to be included in this text message service please fill out the form and place it in the proper container in the Narthex or Parish Hall.

OUR REDEEMERS ANNUAL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DINNER will be held on Saturday, December 3 with social time beginning at 4:30 p.m. Each family is asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. A free-will donation will cover the main meal. The Union High School Carolers will be singing for us. There will also be some additional entertainment. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend. Invite your friends and neighbors. Help is needed in preparing the meal, especially on Saturday morning, please add your name to the volunteer sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or speak with Judy Fink, Cheryl Nissen or Sandy Stone. This will be an enjoyable evening for all.



FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC On Sunday, December 17th, at 4:00 p.m. the congregation is invited to celebrate the Christmas Gospel in Word and Song. (The time is still to be determined.) The festival will include Advent and Christmas music sung or played by instrumentalists, vocalists, the Sunday School students, the Adult Choir, and the congregation. This is an expansion of what we might have thought of as the Children's Christmas program.

It is important for our Sunday School students to be regular in their attendance because they are starting to work on recitations and music for this music festival.

COOKIES AND COCOA Mark your calendars! December 17th There will be "Cookies and Cocoa" after the Christmas Music Festival. There is a sign-up list to bring cookies, hot chocolate, plates, etc. downstairs in the Parish Hall. Contact Michaela Knox with any questions.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES

In an effort to keep the members of Our Redeemer aware of our financial condition as a congregation, the following is provided by the Board of Stewardship and the Financial Secretary.

Offerings so far in 2023 are 7% below our budget. With only 2 months left in 2023, some projects planned for 2023 may have to be delayed or cancelled. Please prayerfully consider increasing your donations to reduce the gap.

- Giving/income Year to Date \$192,137.21 (*through October*)
- Budget Year to Date: \$206,800
- Difference: -\$14,662.79