



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
*Transforming Lives and Building Community by  
 Loving God and Serving Others*



## Keeping Us Tied Together!

### March 18, 2021

Worship YouTube  
 Click [HERE](#)

Sunday Connection  
 Time 11:00 AM  
 Click [HERE](#)

Lent Wednesday  
 Zoom Click [HERE](#)

Online Offerings  
 Click [HERE](#)

### We Welcome You Back for Easter and After!!!

Our Redeemer will be opening back up for in-person worship on **Easter Sunday, April 4**, for three services: ***sunrise at 6:45, 8:45 and 10:00 a.m.!*** We want to make sure people feel welcome to return to worship in the sanctuary in a safe manner. We will be practicing good social distancing in the pews (and using the Fellowship Hall if necessary), expecting everyone to wear masks, and asking people to sing more quietly. We anticipate much joy of seeing each other (friends and strangers) in person, worshipping with great hymns and songs—being able to rejoice together with great Easter news of Jesus' resurrection!

The Church Board made this decision with good input from our *Smart Team* by looking at current COVID case numbers, understanding trends of both the usual COVID strain as well as the variants, exploring more local numbers, taking into account the growing percent of our congregation receiving vaccinations, utilizing the CDC guidelines, and listening to our denominational leaders and other pastors. But please know that the final decision comes down to you—no need to feel pressured to be here – only come if/when you are comfortable. If we must change plans because of COVID changes, we will communicate with you.

This also means that as we continue to have Sunday services going forward from Easter and anticipate having the blended service format in the spring and through summer, at which time we expect to return to two services. Please note that we will continue to have on-line worship available every Sunday (on *YouTube* searching for Our Redeemer St. Paul). It will be live at 10:00 a.m. and will be recorded so you can access the services anytime during the week that is convenient for you.

Beginning after Easter, we are also welcoming back small groups (if they wish to meet) for the various gatherings, such as: quilting, knitting and crocheting groups, ministry teams, small group bible studies, as well as Bible Study on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

### Mirror Survey - Click [HERE](#)

We know the world has been different through COVID, and we are looking forward to days and weeks ahead when we get to gather again in many forms as the church. And while much of what we will experience will be like what we had, we also know that there will be some good changes ahead. To help us learn from you, we are partnering with *ChurchMirror* to utilize a congregational survey. We are asking everyone in the church to take 15 minutes or so to answer the 41-question survey. This will help us hear back from you and allow us to lean into the good reconnecting and reengaging that lies ahead for us, as well as help our long-range planning team hear from our congregation. Those on our mailing list received a paper survey with a return envelope, and others on our email list received this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OurRedeemerLutheran-StPaul-5FRB6XX>. Because we had an issue with the link in the first notice of this request, we ask that you **complete your online survey no later than Thursday, March 25**. If you received the survey in the mail, we ask that you **return your paper survey by Monday, March 22**, since they will need to be manually recorded. Thanks in advance for participating.

### Vaccinated yet?

There are many places now for most people to get vaccinated for COVID, and we encourage everyone to do this. As part of a way to provide some ease/comfort for folks returning to worship, we would like to track the percentage of members who get vaccinated. If you can contact the office (651-772-2445 or at [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org)) once you are vaccinated, that would be much appreciated. We will only be sharing the percentage of members vaccinated, and not individual names.

### Recycling Workshop

For those of you who were not able to attend the Recycling Workshop that we hosted last month, there is another workshop being held next week on [Wednesday, March 24 at 12pm Noon](#). This is a short training on what we can recycle and will help us maximize our efforts to be more successful with our new 3-sort

system of garbage, recycling, and organics collection. We will have all of our new trash bins for various rooms in the church by the end of April and then can really promote this important earth keeping ministry. Contact Deacon Jennifer if you have any questions.

### Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain

This Lenten season we have been providing you with special worship services, prayers, conversations, and by using the Lenten devotional booklet, called **“Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain.”** (If you would like a preprinted booklet, contact the office and we will send you one, or you may pick it up.)



- 1. Live Wednesday Collaborative Lent Services on Zoom**— Join a live online worship service performed in collaboration with Hope, Grace, and Arlington Hills Lutheran churches every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. through Lent. (A *Devotional Conversation* will immediately follow – see below.) The Zoom link is <https://bit.ly/zoomlent> or by clicking [HERE](#). (You can also call in from your phone: 1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 816 6530 3316)
- 2. Devotions and Conversation Time** – If you are on our email list, we will send you four devotions from the Lenten booklet each week for you to read over and over—again and again—as much as you wish for reflective or sharing purposes. We then encouraged you to join one of two different days/times for a devotional conversation on Zoom: Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (at the top of our regular “Sunday Connection Time”) and/or Wednesdays after the live 6:30 p.m. collaborative worship service (immediately following the worship service on the same Zoom).
  - a. Sunday’s** Connection Time Zoom link, click [HERE](#).
  - b. Wednesday’s** Zoom link is <https://bit.ly/zoomlent> or click [HERE](#).
  - c. Next week’s (WEEK 5) devotions**, click [HERE](#).
- 3. Prayer Requests** - You are welcome to stop by church anytime during Lent to drop off prayer requests in the box located to the right of the front doors. (Paper and pens are there as well.)

### Young Adults - Bonfire & Brunch, Sunday March 21 @ 12:30 p.m.

The YACollab (ages 20’s-30’s) gathers monthly to play games, socialize, talk about faith and issues near and dear to their hearts. For more information, contact Deacon Jennifer or check out the Facebook page: @youngadultcollaboration. Meet in the church parking lot. Bring a lawn chair if you have one. We will provide brunch and a toasty fire. Bring a friend.



Worship Service Scriptures & Lectors		
Date	Scriptures (Click on links below)	Lector
March 21	<a href="#">John 12:20-33</a> ; <a href="#">Jeremiah 31:31-34</a>	Hilary Hinrichs
March 28 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<a href="#">John 12:1-19</a>	Holly Forsberg
If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), contact the office.		

### March 2021 Happenings



<b>24 Bible Study on Zoom</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>24 Viewing of Sunday Service in Sanctuary</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<b>24 Lent Worship Service on Zoom</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>27 Twas the Morning of Easter—CYF Reverse Parade</b>	<b>10:30 AM - Noon</b>
<b>28 Palm Sunday—Drive-thru Palm Pickup!</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>

**Honor your loved ones—Order Easter Flowers Now**  
(complete form attached to March Newsletter or by contacting the office)



## HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, March 21, 2021

This is a simple format that allows you—whether by yourself or with others—to take some dedicated time and enjoy the gift of worship in your home setting. Find a quiet place, light a candle, and lift your heart and voice to God.

### Gathering

Jesus Christ is our hope and consolation, our joy and strength, the generous gift of God. – Now and Always  
We gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

### Opening Prayer

Lord, You ever have been steadfast in your commitment to the world, to love us and to save us. Thank you for remaining true to your plans and using Jesus to rescue us from sin and overcome evil.

**Song – Prepare the Royal Highway**      Refrain – Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word

1 Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near; let every hill and valley a level road appear. Then greet the king of glory foretold in sacred story...	2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him; spread garments; shout and sing. God's promise will not fail you; no more shall doubt assail you...	4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding...
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**Scripture – John 12:20-33 (please find this in your Bible)**

### Scripture Reflections and Questions

There were Greeks coming to Jesus which shows his message was reaching beyond the narrow group of folks who may have need or interest in holy things of God. How do we help others to see/know/hear/experience God?

Part of what we celebrate here is the steadfast commitment on the part of the Father and Jesus to carry out this important work. What does it mean to you to think of God as a 'steadfast' worker? What other terms fit?

### Prayers

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

**Glorious God**, open the eyes of your church to see you coming to us, again and again, in new and surprising ways. Open our lips that we may praise you and proclaim your glory. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all places, you reveal your glory in creation and call us to steward what you have made. Make us better caretakers of all that lives with us as we share this planet. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Loving God**, shower the world with your grace and love. Grant us your eyes of compassion and mercy that we reach out to all in any need. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, be with the sick and the suffering, *especially*, .... Use your power to bring them healing, comfort, and peace according to your will. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Great God**, inspire us through our worship of you and move us to do your will and to proclaim your word in our lives and in our communities. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered for ourselves, family, church, ministries, community situations.....*

**God of Resurrection**, make us firm in our faith in you as you made firm the faith of the saints before us.

Unite the saints of all times and places in praise and worship of you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker, day by day you sustain the weary with your word and gently encourage us to place our trust in you. Awaken us to the suffering of those around us; save us from hiding in denials or taunts that deepen the hurt; give us grace to share one another's burdens in humble service. **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

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.**

### Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine down upon you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Thanks be to God!**





*This is a simple format that allows you—whether by yourself or with others—to take some dedicated time and enjoy the gift of worship in your home setting. Find a quiet place, light a candle, and lift your heart and voice to God.*

### Gathering

Again and again, we come to worship. Again and again we remember that God calls us together as community – virtually *and* physically. We lean on our Savior for courage. We worship in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

### Opening Prayer

Even when we gloss over the truth, even when our courage fails us, even when we doubt that we can do hard things, God believes in us. God loves us. God forgives us. Again and again and again. Amen.

### Song – “All Glory, Laud and Honor” – verses 1, 3, 4 #344 ELW (cranberry hymnal)

<b>REFRAIN:</b> <i>All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.</i>		
1. You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One. [Refrain]	3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. [Refrain]	4. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. [Refrain]

### Scripture - John 12:1-19 (please find this in your own Bible)

#### Scripture Reflections and Questions

On Palm Sunday, we remember that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was not a risk-free, palm party. It was a protest parade—a protest against those in power, a parade to prepare the way for a different kind of king. And this was all happening with plots to kill Lazarus (and Jesus) building in the background. We're reminded that the crowds were brave to show up that day, and that Jesus drew on courage to face his journey to the cross. The root of courage is “cour,” meaning “heart.” Courage is deep within us; drawing on courage is both internal and external. We often find it when we most need it, when everything else has been stripped away.

How do you define courage? How do you access it? What events in your life have required the most courage? In this scripture reading, note each character who draws on courage and each character who avoids it. What does each character risk and what do they gain?

#### Prayers

Again and again we lift up our prayers to the Lord, and the Lord hears us with compassion and mercy. We pray for the church, the world and all those in need.

**For the church:** the ministry of ORLC, for the ways we love and serve our neighbors, for our learning and growth

**For the world:** global warming, peace among nations, people suffering from natural disasters, COVID vaccines being distributed around the world, education and opportunities for women and girls around the world

**For our community:** courage for those facing difficult circumstances, renewal for small businesses, safety for children playing outside as the weather warms up, employment for those seeking jobs

**For others:** members in our congregation, neighbors, friends and family members in need of healing and peace

**For myself:** physical \_\_\_\_\_, mental \_\_\_\_\_, spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

#### Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven...

#### Benediction

Again and again, May the Lord bless you and keep you. Again and again, may the Lord's face shine down upon you with grace and mercy. Again and again, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

