

# Spirit of the Redeemer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENN.

May 2025

## Salvation Offered Freely to All

[Sermon preached by Pastor Young at the Easter Vigil, 2025. Text: Isaiah 55:1-11.]

Come, everyone! “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” The feast is prepared. It satisfies and delights beyond anything desired. Water for all, wine and milk and bread and rich food in abundance. The provisions are freely given. No one is excluded, for the God of Israel has provided as he promised.

How can this be with Israel failing so badly, with the nation not remaining faithful to the Lord? How can the sinful people of Israel be blessed and be a blessing to the nations in their iniquity? Only because of the work of the suffering Servant who was “stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted,” the one “wounded for our transgressions” and “crushed for our iniquities” (Is. 53:4-5). Because of his work, the Lord has prepared for everyone the most pleasing provisions that nourish eternally.

Waters flow freely. They flow from Jesus, the Rock in the wilderness. He is one who said to the Samaritan woman at the well, “Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (Jn. 4:13-14). Our Lord is the one who cried out at the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’” (Jn. 7:37-38).

So drop your money bags and do not attempt to labor for the water and food that sustain life in abundance. Do insult the host. Rather, rejoice in the paradox of buying without money. You have not come to a common marketplace. The Lord satisfies the hungry without it costing them anything. He has paid the price, and it was not gold or silver.

Our Lord Jesus issued his own paradox when he said: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, that I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for you souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30). How can a yoke be easy and a burden be light? The same way that people buy without money. These are the Lord’s ways.

For any longing for the satisfying spiritual life that only God offers, you must buy from him without money, and rest from your labors, and eat his food, God’s food. Sinners must despair of their own ability and worth, and eat the food of God.

This is done firstly with the ears. The prophet records the Lord’s invitation, “Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.” And what rich fare is given unto our ears this very hour! Christ is risen! The Scripture had to be fulfilled “that he must rise from the dead.”

He is the one through whom the Lord makes an everlasting covenant, the promised Son of David whose throne is established forever. The Christ is the true witness to the peoples, the prophet beyond all prophets. And he is the true leader and commander, the King of kings.

By his sacrifice as priest and Lamb, his heavenly food is granted to all. The blessings of the covenant to David are extended and offered eternally to all through the sacrifice of David's Son, the Messiah. It is the Christ who calls all nations to himself and provides for them as his own. It is by the power of the Holy One of Israel, almighty God, that Christ is the Redeemer who feeds and cares for the people, all who come to him. Recall when Jesus said to the crowd in his ministry. "But I, when I lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." The Gospel writer John then adds, "He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die" (Jn. 12:32-33). To Nicodemus our Lord instructed, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that *whoever* believes in him may have eternal life" (Jn. 3:14).

On the cross the Son glorified the Father, and he is risen as the victor over sin, death, and the devil! Witnesses have testified. The Word is recorded. The thirst and hunger of all men is satisfied in this Gospel, this Word of eternal life. Salvation is delivered through this good news that your soul may live, and the souls of all who believe. Christ's work is the fulfillment of the prophecy given to Isaiah, this prophecy, this text, that is titled in the Altar Book and in your service bulletin as, "Salvation Offered Freely to All!"

Therefore, "Listen diligently." It's an infinite absolute in the Hebrew, a construct that intensifies the verb. So it can be translated, "Listen continually!" or "Keep on listening!" This is how one eats what is good, by continually listening to God's Word.

"Seek the Lord, while he may be found," in the Word and the visible Word of your Baptism which benefits you always and in the holy Supper. Come and eat what is good! The Lord Jesus is brought near, the living Christ in his body and blood which were given unto death for our sins and raised to resurrection life. How delightful that we can even desire to seek the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit and live! For on our own we have no reason or strength that avails and we seek only the destruction of ourselves in self-serving sin. But the Lord has first sought us out. And even the wicked, even the most unrighteous man, even the worst prodigal son, may return by God's power, and the Lord will have compassion and mercy and will pardon abundantly for the sake of Christ!

Truly God's thoughts are not our thoughts and his ways are higher than ours, higher than the ways of all men? The ways of sinful humanity are revealed by God in Genesis when the Lord says, "The intention of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Gen. 8:21). Through the prophet Jeremiah, our God further diagnoses man: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jer. 17:9). But not so with God. The Lord is good and gracious, delivering undeserved favor on humanity. He does not desire to harm or exploit, only to save. Therefore, our sinful inclinations are to be rejected, to be seen as what is opposed to God. And we may delight in the high ways by which the Lord treats us in the giving of his Son to wicked tenants, in the scandal of the Gospel. Who can understand God's gracious heart?

Not only does the Word of God reveal God's will, but it is also powerful and effective and accomplishes a purpose. No word of man is effective like the Word of God. Jesus Christ himself is the Word made flesh. He is the thoughts and ways of God incarnate. He is love incarnate. Based on nothing good within us, but only on the mercy and love of God, he came to dwell among us. God sent his Word near so that people could recognize him and turn from their evil ways. And when he was rejected, our Lord allowed the sins of the world, our sins, to be placed on him so that he could be killed as a sacrifice of atonement. This was the plan of God before the foundation of the world. The Word in the flesh displayed thoughts and ways man never had a right to see. The Word in the flesh was nailed to a tree, so that life and forgiveness could be ours, so that he could defeat death for us. Mankind had no part in this salvation. Nothing within us contributed to this salvation. The only thing

within man that was contributed was the hatred, the shouts “Crucify him,” and the pounding of the nails. Christ Jesus accomplished everything for our salvation, and the recorded Word is given that we might hear and believe and be saved.

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven . . . so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” Is this not true? Christ came down from heaven, the Word made flesh and accomplished his purpose of paying for our sins. The Word is given to us this day for the purpose sustaining us in eternal life.

The Old and New Testament Scriptures are no dead letter, but through them the Lord kills and makes alive. The living and active word is truly sharper than any two-edged sword . . . discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Heb. 4:12). The law of God exposes the ways of man and teaches us not to trust in self. And the Gospel reveals the gracious gift of the way of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ. It is through this written, inspired Word that faith is worked in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. It is through this Word that the life Christ won for us is, in fact, imparted to us.

Therefore, come everyone to the feast, and give ear to this good news. Christ is risen! The everlasting covenant with David is made sure. Not even death has knocked the Christ off his throne. Rather, his glory is manifest as conqueror of death. And he gives out the food of eternal life!

Again, do not attempt to buy this food with money, or to sell yourself into slavery for it. Do not revert to your worldly inclinations. Come instead to the table as a grateful son or daughter. And be filled in ear and mouth! Receive the proclaimed Gospel for the forgiveness of all your sins. Take in the water of life that your thirst is quenched forever. Receive the visible Gospel in your mouth, the body and blood of the Savior raised for your everlasting life.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord is near! The risen Christ is for us and with us! Incline your ear, then, and come, that your soul may live as your God desires. Salvation is indeed offered freely to all! Amen.

**Birthdays, Baptismal Birthdays, &  
Wedding Anniversaries**  
**Birthdays**  
**Baptismal Birthdays**  
**Wedding Anniversaries**

**Ongoing Prayer Needs**

*Please update Pastor and the church office  
on these needs.*



***The Paschal Homily attributed to St. John Chrysostom***

***Bishop of Constantinople (AD 347-407)***

[St. John Chrysostom's Paschal Homily | Emmanuel Lutheran Church](#)

If anyone is devout and loves God,  
let him take part in this noble feast of triumph.  
If anyone is a good and wise servant,  
let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord.  
If anyone has wearied himself with fasting,  
let him now receive his denarius.  
If anyone has labored from the first hour,  
let him receive today his rightful due.  
If anyone has come after the third hour,  
let him keep the feast with thanksgiving.  
If anyone has come after the sixth hour,  
let him not be in doubt, for he will suffer no loss.  
If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour,  
let him not hesitate but draw near.  
If anyone has arrived only at the eleventh hour,  
let him not be fearful on account of his lateness.

For the Master is generous and welcomes the last  
even as the first.  
He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour  
in the same way as to him who has labored from the  
first.  
And He has mercy on the last, and refreshes the first.  
To the one He gives, and to the other He is gracious.  
And the deeds He receives, and the thought He  
welcomes kindly.  
And the effort He honors, and the intention He  
praises.

Enter, then, all of you, into the joy of our Lord.  
Both the first and the second, receive alike your  
reward.  
Rich and poor, dance together.  
You sober and you slothful, honor the day.  
You who have fasted and you who have not, rejoice  
with gladness today.  
The table is full! All of you, come and enjoy the  
feast.  
The calf is fattened! Let none go away hungry.  
Come, one and all, and partake of the feast of faith,  
the riches of His kindness!

Let none lament his poverty;  
for a kingdom has appeared that is common to all.  
Let none bewail his trespasses;  
for pardon has risen from the tomb.  
Let none fear death;

for the death of the Savior has set us free.  
He quenched death, even as He was held by death.  
He did injury to hell, having descended into hell.  
He filled it with bitterness as it tasted of His flesh.

Isaiah foretold this when he cried and said,  
“Hell was embittered when it met You below.”  
It was embittered, because it was made powerless;  
embittered, because it was mocked;  
embittered, because it was put to death;  
embittered, because it was overthrown;  
embittered, because it was chained.  
It took a body and encountered God.  
It took earth and met heaven.  
It took what it saw and fell because of what it did not  
see.

O death, where is your sting?  
O hell, where is your victory?

Christ has arisen! And you, O death, have been cast  
down!  
Christ has arisen! And the demons have fallen!  
Christ has arisen! And the angels rejoice!  
Christ has arisen! And life lives free!  
Christ has arisen! And the tomb is barren of its dead!  
For Christ, having arisen from the dead,  
has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen  
asleep.

To Him be the glory and the power, forever and  
ever. Amen.



<b>May 2025</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Redeemer's Adult Social Fellowship (Wine & Cheese)
<b>4 Third Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 Divine Service Door Offering Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Choir <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>12</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast
<b>18 Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Choir	<b>19</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>20</b> 6:30 Council	<b>21</b> 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 Divine Service LWML Mite Collection Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Choir	<b>26</b> 6:30pm AA <i>Memorial Day</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study	<b>29</b> <b>The Ascension of Our Lord</b> 7 Divine Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>The Visitation (3-Year Lectionary)</i>



# Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



Mar-Apr 2025



Ash Wednesday ashes

## The Blessings of Lent and Holy Week 2025

The Church has an annual review of the basics of our faith. We call it Lent and Holy Week. This year, we were again blessed to hear and celebrate the message of the cross, the source of the world's salvation. Here are just a few pictures of the Divine services we held during those days. We pray that God richly blessed you as you passed through these days of salvation.



Palm Sunday



Good Friday



The Easter Vigil



## "Many hands make light work"

We are blessed here in Prague to have many people who bring eager and happy hands to work together. Lately, we have had hands that brought special music to the service (a guitar arrangement of Johann Franck's hymn, "Jesus Priceless Treasure"), readers for the Easter Vigil service, members serving as cantors, and the voices of a resilient congregation. Unfortunately, our organist has taken sick, and we had to sing the liturgy and the hymns *a cappella*. Even our young acolyte, Clive, was able to chant his parts of the Easter Vigil liturgy without any help from the organ.

We all bring you greetings this blessed Easter season: (left to right) Clive, Pastor Martin and Shirley Damašek, and Suzanne and Pastor Dale. May these seven weeks that celebrate our Lord's resurrection fill you with joy and peace, knowing that in Christ we, too, will live forever!

## Home-Service Schedule

Our home service begins on the 30th of April. During that time, we will be covering most of the corners of our country. If you are nearby, please come to see us at one of these locations.

- May 4 Messiah Lutheran – Marysville, WA
- May 11 Christ the Redeemer – Tulsa, OK
- May 18 Immanuel Lutheran – Bossier City, LA
- May 25 Celebration Lutheran – St. Johns, FL
- June 1 Trinity Lutheran – Port Charlotte, FL
- June 8 Holy Trinity Lutheran – Kingsland, GA
- June 12 St. Johns Lutheran – Casey, IA
- June 14 Mission Central – Mapleton, IA
- June 15 Peace Lutheran – Grand Island, NE
- June 16 Grace Lutheran – LeMars, IA
- June 19 International Center – St. Louis, MO
- June 22 St. Paul Lutheran – Columbia, IL
- June 25 Redeemer Lutheran – Nashville, TN
- July 6 Mt. Pisgah Lutheran – Hendersonville, NC
- July 13 Good Shepherd Lutheran – Pt. Pleasant, NJ
- July 20 Our Savior Lutheran – Winchester, VA



## Staying Put for Now

We were able to negotiate an agreement with the Slovak congregation that owns the church building in which we worship. With a significant increase in rent, we will be staying for the next 18 months. It is not the best situation, but it has been our home for many years, and we are glad we do not have to move.



## Our Annual Visit from College Students

Every spring, we are visited by Lutheran college students who come from all over the US. They come to learn about mission opportunities. At this gathering, we let them know that not all missionaries are pastors. There are many talents and abilities that the Church can use in order to spread the Gospel of Christ. And missionaries are not only young people. Maybe God is calling you, perhaps out of retirement, to serve His kingdom. Please pray about it.



Our email addresses are  
[Dale.Kaster@lcms.org](mailto:Dale.Kaster@lcms.org)  
[Suzanne.Kaster@lcmsintl.org](mailto:Suzanne.Kaster@lcmsintl.org)

Our address in Prague:  
 Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster  
 Bubenečská 365/41  
 160 00 Praha 6  
 Czech Republic

The church address in Prague:  
 St. Michael's Lutheran Church  
 V Jirchářích 14/152  
 110 00 Praha 1  
 Czech Republic



## Visit to Vsetín in Moravia

One of our member families has moved east near the Slovak border because of work. Unfortunately, they do not have a church there. So, we went to take them the Lord's Supper, to bless their house, and to share

some fellowship with them. It is nice when God's people hunger for His gifts.

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kastets, send a tax-deductible gift to:  
 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR** Mission Central  
 P.O. Box 66861 40718 Hwy E16  
 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Mapleton, IA 51034  
 Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Czech Republic," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at [www.lcms.org/kaster](http://www.lcms.org/kaster).

## **Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church**

800 Bellevue Road

Nashville, TN 37221

(615) 646-3150

[www.redeemernashville.org](http://www.redeemernashville.org)

[rlcnashville@outlook.com](mailto:rlcnashville@outlook.com)

