

# The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer

1515 Boundary Street • Newberry, SC 29108

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The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026 - 10:30 am

A warm welcome to The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer!

Lent is a forty-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and leads us through to the three holy days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. It is a time for intentional spiritual renewal, designed to mirror Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. By setting aside this season, we are called to pause, look inward, and examine our lives, preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter by embracing a spirit of repentance and reflection.

Rather than a time of gloom, Lent is a journey of returning to God with a sincere heart. Through fasting, we detach from worldly distractions; through prayer, we deepen our relationship with God; and through almsgiving, we express love for our neighbors. Ultimately, Lent invites us to die to ourselves, so that we might walk more closely with Christ on the road to Calvary and experience the transformative power of the Resurrection.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Whether you are a long-time member, a newcomer to our parish, or simply exploring your faith, we are delighted to have you join us. We are a family of faith dedicated to sharing God's love and grace through worship, fellowship, and service.

We invite you to join us for our worship services, participate in our ministries, and become a part of our vibrant parish. May you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit among us and find a spiritual home here at Redeemer.

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The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer is a Christian community of diverse people called and guided by the Holy Spirit to nurture with God's love those within and beyond our congregation.

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A place where God is at work!  
All are welcome. No exceptions.

..... ✝ **GATHERING** ✝ .....

**Voluntaries**

*That Priceless Grace*

David Lasky

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Paul Manz

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Joyce Jones

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*<We stand.>*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who remembers our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

*<We kneel.>*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdain the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*<We stand.>*

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together. Holy God, **We, like Peter, often turn our backs on you. Forgive us and show us a new way to live, walking boldly and passionately toward you. Amen.**

<We sit.>

..... ✚ **WORD** ✚ .....

**READING**

**Psalm 17:1-7**

*Pew Bible page 431*

*Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit. From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right. If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress. As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped. I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR**

**I Will Give My Heart to the Lord**

Mark Patterson

**LIL’ LUTHERAN TALK**

<We stand.>

**GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 18:12-27**

*Pew Bible page 880*

*So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.*

*Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.*

*Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.*

*Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.*

<At the conclusion of the reading>

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

<We sit.>

**SERMON**

**Rev. Matthew Titus**

<We stand.>

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**What Wondrous Love Is This**

*ELW Hymn 666*

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.\*  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

<We kneel.>

*Each prayer petition will end with “Hear us, O God,” and the response is “Your mercy is great.”*

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.  
**Amen.**

<We stand.>

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also, with you.**  
*You are invited to share the peace, however you and those around you are comfortable.*  
 <We sit.>

..... ✚ **MEAL** ✚ .....

**RECEPTION OF THE OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**Lost in Wonder**

**Claude L. Bass**

<We stand.>

## OFFERTORY

### What Shall I Render

What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?  
I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing  
and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the  
pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise ... *here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding ...* we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. The lyrics are printed below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, ...

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

... Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray ...

**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.**

## INVITATION TO THE MEAL

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

<We sit.>

**COMMUNION**

*Participation in Holy Communion is open to all the baptized. We come in faith, trusting Christ is truly present in the bread and wine – given for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen us for proclaiming God’s love in the world. You are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. You may dip the bread into the chalice. If you are unable to come forward, communion will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

<We stand.>

**THE TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

..... ✝ **SENDING** ✝ .....

**BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✝ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**In the Cross of Christ I Glory**

*ELW Hymn 324*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**VOLUNTARY**

*Savior, When in Dust to You*

Carolyn Hamlin

..... **ANNOUNCEMENTS** .....

**WELCA** will meet today at 3:45 PM in the church library for its business meeting. Then at 4:00, Carol Ezeell-Gilson will have our program. All women and friends of the congregation are invited to attend.

**Easter Lily Orders** are due by March 12<sup>th</sup>, plants will cost \$8.00 each. Order forms are available in the Narthex and church office.

| Sun   | Mon  | Tues  | Wed   | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun  |
|---|--|---|---|-------|-----|-----|--|
| 8<br><b>Sunday School -</b><br>9:30am<br><b>Worship -</b> 10:30am<br><b>Children's Choir</b><br><b>Rehearsal -</b> after<br>worship<br><b>Handbell Choir</b><br><b>Rehearsal -</b><br>11:40am-12:20pm<br><b>WELCA -</b> 3:45pm<br><b>Confirmation -</b> 4pm | 9<br><b>Prayer &amp; Care</b><br><b>Card Class -</b><br>9:30am<br><br><br><br><b>Congregation</b><br><b>Council</b><br><b>Meeting -</b><br>6pm | 10<br><b>Prayer</b><br><b>Shawl</b><br><b>Ministry -</b><br>10am<br><br><b>Finance</b><br><b>Committee</b><br><b>Mtg -</b> 6pm<br><br><b>Library</b><br><b>Reserved</b> | 11<br><br><b>Mid-Week</b><br><b>Meal &amp;</b><br><b>Lenten</b><br><b>Service -</b><br>6:15pm - FLC<br>Chicken Strips<br>Corn Casserole<br>Green Beans &<br>PB&Js to be<br>served<br><br><b>Senior Choir</b><br><b>Rehearsal -</b><br>after worship | 12    | 13  | 14  | 15<br><b>Sunday School -</b><br>9:30am<br><b>Worship -</b><br>10:30am<br><b>Children's</b><br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b><br><b>-</b> after worship<br><b>Handbell Choir</b><br><b>Rehearsal -</b><br>11:40am-<br>12:20pm |

**Worship Leadership - This Sunday**

**Worship Asst:** Kevin Boozer  
**Acolyte:** Jacob Chapman  
**Crucifer:** Taygen Hazel  
**Comm Prep:**  
**Altar Flowers:** No Flowers During Lent  
**Ushers:** Susan Thomasson, Walter Jacobs,  
 Justin Guy, Dennis Caughman

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

**Worship Asst:** Nikki Chapman  
**Acolyte:** Clyde Miller  
**Crucifer:** Rosealynn Sexton  
**Comm Prep:**  
**Altar Flowers:** No Flowers During Lent  
**Ushers:** Tommy Fellers, Joey Nicosia,  
 Tom Gilson, Dennis Caughman

**Numbers for February 25, 2026:**

**Attendance:** 34      **Offering:**  
 Lenten Meals: \$113.00

**Numbers for Sunday, February 22, 2026:**

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Attendance:</b> | <b>Offering:</b>                    |
| Sunday School: 18  | Gen Op Account: \$ 4,042.16         |
| In-Person: 70      | Major Maint.: \$ 455.00             |
| Online: 157        | Lenten Meals: \$ 163.00             |
| <b>Total: 227</b>  | Facilities Rental Income: \$ 125.00 |

**The Rev. Matthew Titus, Pastor · Haley McBride-Stuhr, Office Assistant & Bookkeeper**  
**Dr. Huger Caughman, Jr., Organist · Nicholas Todd Shumate, Choir Director**  
**A/V Team: Annette Belcher, Wayden Caughman, Nikki Chapman, and Matt Bowers**

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## Lenten Midweek Services

Join us for a meal beginning at 6:15pm in the Family Life Center followed by an abbreviated worship service

February 25 - Creation - Mark 4:35-41

March 4 - All the Saints - Mark 9:2-8

March 11 - Our Neighbor - Mark 2:1-12

March 18 - Those on the Margins - Mark 5:1-20

March 25 - Walking the Way of the Cross -  
Mark 10:32-45