

Service Focus:

#### **Christ With Us**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California WELS 175th Anniversary Service 3 (Reformation Sunday) | October 26, 2025



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#### Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! You have joined us for the most important time we spend together. Each time we gather as a family of faith, we make the gospel (or good news) of Jesus our central focus. It is not just about information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, our service proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Many of the elements of this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Some are very recent. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

**Are you visiting with us today?** Thank you! We love meeting our neighbors and would be grateful for the opportunity to extend our thanks in a more formal way. **Please consider filling out one of the Welcome/Connect cards in the rack in front of you, or scan the QR code** to the right to help us know you better.



#### For Your Convenience

- **The order of service** is printed in this folder. If a song is not printed in this service folder, it can be found in the blue hymnal in front of your seat. The pastor will speak the words in normal print. **The congregation is invited to speak those printed in bold.** Please participate as you are comfortable today.
- **Restrooms** are located in the fellowship hall building to the left as you exit church.
- Please reserve the rows in the back of the church for families with small children.
- If you are in need of any other assistance, any one of our members will be happy to assist you.

# **Participation & Children**

Sometimes parents (and even churches) think that worship is not a place for children. At Our Redeemer, we're convinced that nothing could be further from the truth. We want children in church worshiping with their families and learning about Jesus' love for them. Why?

- Even from the earliest of ages, **children are models of faith** from which we can all learn (Luke 18:16,17). Similarly, they learn how to "do church" by watching mom & dad. Model worship for them.
- Our worship format not only encourages families to be together, but is ideally suited for activer worship engagement and participation by all, including children, balancing new service elements each week with regular repetition for learning and memorization.
- The **sights and sounds of active children** during children isn't bad at all it's a reminder to the adults that the next generation of church leaders is already among us.

We realize that, especially at first, having children in church can be a challenge for parents. To help, we offer the following:

- If your child needs some individual attention to calm them down, an area in the fellowship hall, located just to the left as you exit church, is available. Worship can be watched and heard in this room.
- Other families are willing and ready to help. Let us know if we can offer a hand with your little ones.
- Activity sheets that kids can work on throughout the service are available on the stand in the back.

# Current Series: Christ Through Us - The 175th Anniversary of the WELS

With hearts full of gratitude, we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), our church body, in a 3-week worship series. We give thanks for God's abundant blessings over the years, for the faithful proclamation of God's Word, and for the countless lives touched by the Gospel through our synod's ministry. For many generations, the Lord has preserved and guided his Church both through trials and blessings, raising up pastors, teachers, and lay leaders to serve his kingdom. As we remember this milestone, we ask for the Lord's continued guidance and strength to remain steadfast in the truth, proclaiming Christ crucified and risen for the salvation of all. We ask God to bless our synod with unity, wisdom, and a renewed commitment to spread the kingdom of God, that his name may be glorified now and forever.

October 5 WELS 175th Anniversary 1 Christ FOR Us

October 12 WELS 175th Anniversary 2 Christ THROUGH Us

October 19 Festival of St. James of Jerusalem

October 26 WELS 175th Anniversary 3 (Reformation Sunday) Christ WITH Us

#### **Service Focus**

Over 500 years ago, Lutheran Christians were under tremendous pressure. They were forced to defend themselves on battlefields both metaphorical and literal. But they took comfort that Christ himself was by their side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit. Just 175 years ago, the Lutheran Christians who founded WELS were also under tremendous pressure. The pressure continues today with opposition to the truths of the Word of God. But we take comfort that Christ is with us in Word and sacrament, and we move forward with the promise of his presence.

# **Prayer before the Service**

Sin made me an enemy of God, O Jesus. But you made me a friend. I thank you for your grace, by which I am restored in my relationship to God. I thank you for your love, which sees me in my distress and rescues me from eternity in hell. Thank you for the faith that you placed into my heart through the power of the Holy Spirit. Help me to see you as my perfect, ever-present Savior. In your name I pray. Amen.

# **Serving God and Us Today**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder

Music Operator: Al Todd

Musicians: Our Redeemer Handbells (Emily Schroeder, Pam Schueler, Al Todd, directed by

Deb Aitkins), Marrissa Schueler (guitar), Linka Schroeder (flute)

Audio/Visual Booth: Jim Everson, Josh Schueler

Usher: Frank Florez

Flowers: Al & Sonja Todd (in memory of their son Jimmy)

# The Service

# Welcome

Stand

# **Opening Sentences**





Be seated

The Venite (Latin for "Oh Come") is an ancient hymn of the church based on Psalm 95. This song of invitation to worship and praise is associated with the Matins or Morning Prayer liturgy, going back to monastic times. Using the words of Psalm 95, the church is invited to come into the presence of God to worship him. God the creator is our God who holds us in the palm of his hand as his people.

# The Word

#### Children's Devotion

God's people memorialize his gracious presence. First Reading Joshua 4:1-9

<sup>1</sup>When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup> "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup> and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight."

<sup>4</sup>So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, <sup>5</sup> and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, <sup>6</sup> to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' <sup>7</sup> tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

<sup>8</sup> So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. <sup>9</sup> Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Martin Luther said,
"We sing Psalm 46 to
praise the only true God
for being with us. He
wonderfully upholds his
Word and Christendom
against the very gates
of hell, against the rage
of every demon, the
world, the flesh, sin,
and death."

#### **Handbell Anthem**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Arranged by Jason W. Krug Published by Grassy Meadow Music

Meditate on Psalm 46, the basis of the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," while the anthem is played.

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

<sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

<sup>5</sup>God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

<sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

- <sup>8</sup>Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.
  - He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup> He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (NIV)

Second Reading Revelation 3:7-13

<sup>7</sup> "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. <sup>8</sup>I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. <sup>12</sup> The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. <sup>13</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Christ is coming soon.

Hold on to what you have and go through the open door before you.

#### This hymn, written by Martin Luther, is based on Psalm 46. It was a hymn of great comfort to Luther and his followers because when he was discouraged he would often invite his friends to sing it with him for courage and strength. Apparently he sang it quite regularly while begin sheltered at the Coburg castle. It has been translated into a host of other languages, with over one hundred English translations alone.

# Hymn of the Day

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Christian Worship 863



#### "Free at Last"

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (NIV)

#### My Christian Life - Free at Last //

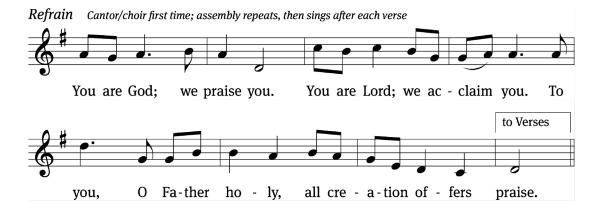
God's Son has made me free from Satan's tyranny and control. Sin is no longer my master. Since I'm freely forgiven by God's gift, I can ...

- ☐ Pray this week especially for someone I know who is imprisoned by worldly burdens. I can ask God to set them free from unbelief, the powers of addiction, abuse, depression, etc.
- ☐ Memorize Romans 3:23,24 this week: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." These verses summarize so well what the Reformation wanted to emphasize—we are declared innocent freely by God's grace.
- ☐ Find some way to celebrate the Reformation this week. I could watch a video about Martin Luther's life, read parts of my catechism, and use the readings today and Psalm 46 as my Bible readings this week.

Other:	

Stand

# You Are God; We Praise You Te Deum



Martin Luther considered the Te Deum to be one of the most important creeds of the Church, eclipsed only by the Apostles' Creed and the Athanasian Creed.



Be seated

# **Prayer of the Church**

Gracious God, the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed us from sin, and the work of your Spirit in our hearts has brought us to faith. According to your promise, preserve us in faith through your Word and sacraments. Accept our humble thanks for these rich blessings, and help us to rejoice in them and use them faithfully. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you have brought us together in a church body in which your Word is proclaimed faithfully, the message of reconciliation through Christ is the central focus of ministry, and the mission is to reach the lost and strengthen the saved. For this gift of your grace, we give you thanks. Work in us by your Holy Spirit to rekindle our zeal for the work you have set before us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The Prayer of the Church expresses the Church's care for the world, the nation, the Church at large, the local congregation, and those in need, shaped by Scripture and guided by the Spirit. Gracious Lord, you have given us opportunities to proclaim your Word in our nation and throughout the world. Move the hearts of more young people to prepare for the teaching and preaching ministry. Help us view them as your precious gifts. Bless the work of our schools that prepare them for ministry and provide the opportunities for them to serve in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you have brought us together as a church body that we may proclaim your praise. Inspire us by your grace to let our light shine so that more people may be led to glorify you. Forgive us when we fall short of living and working together as your people. Renew in us an godly determination to serve you and one another in love. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you have preserved our synod and blessed its ministry for the past 175 years. We thank you for the faithful ministers of the gospel throughout our history who have taught your truth and proclaimed your Word. Bless us in the future as you have in the past so that our synod, its congregations, and each of us may boldly confess your name for the salvation of precious souls. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Hear us, help us, and hold your guiding hand over us that in all our service your saving name may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# Offering

The members of Our Redeemer have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. **If you are a guest with us this morning**, we are so happy you're here! Please do not feel obigated to participate in the offering. For those who wish to give a gift, you can place an offering in the **offering plate** located near the doors where you entered church today. A plate will be there as you depart today. You may Offering also scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone's camera to be redirected to a page where you can give an offering. While the members of Our Redeemer support this ministry with their gifts, we understand that you

might want to learn more about us before you choose to do the same.



**Connect Card** 

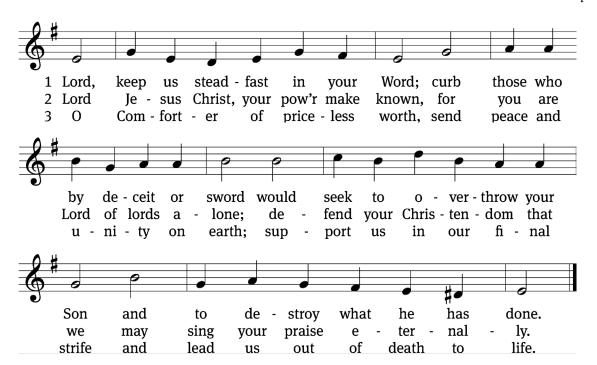
We would greatly appreciate it, however, if you would fill out a **Welcome**/ **Connect Card** (located in the rack in front of you) and place it in the offering plate following the service. You could also let us know you were here today by filling out a card online by **scanning the QR code** to the left.

As a response of faith, the members of Our Redeemer present gifts of money to the Lord. God's work must be done. God's word of salvation, the word we have just heard, must be preached to all people everywhere. We pray that God use these gifts to accomplish such vital work!

This hymn by Martin Luther was probably written in 1541 for a special prayer service held in Wittenberg because of the threat of a Turkish (Muslim) invasion into Europe. Luther saw the spread of Islam as a dangerous threat to the Christian church. He also saw the false teaching of salvation by works that the Roman papacy advocated as extremely dangerous to the Christian church as well. This hymn is a prayer for Christians to remain in the Word and that God would protect and unite his church.

#### Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word Christian Worship 862



The Lord's Prayer is one of the chief ways God trains our faith, because through its petitions, we learn to cling to his promises and rely on his goodness. See Matthew 6:9-13.

# 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day helps the worshipers focus on a central theme drawn from the readings of the day.

# **Closing Prayer and Blessing**

Lord, keep your household, the church, in continual godliness. Even as you have been with us in WELS for 175 years, continue to bless us with your presence through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

A short trinitarian benediction asking the Triune God to grant blessing and preservation to the worshipers.

This German hymn

from 1700 is a prayer for Christ to guard his church in unity, peace, and faithfulness to his Word. It confesses that the church belongs to

Christ alone, who pur-

chased and preserves

his people.

# **Closing Hymn**

Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head *Christian Worship* 861 (st. 1,2)



**Handbell Anthem** 

"Doxology" *Arranged and Published by Linda Scholes* 

# Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer from *Christian Worship*. Morning Praise Sentences and Canticles - Text and tune: Marty Haugen © 1995, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 715837. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.TM Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-743037. All rights reserved.

#### **Attendance**

Sunday Morning Worship (October 19) - 36

#### **Our Redeemer News**

#### Upcoming Bible Studies at Our Redeemer

October 26, II:00am - Starting Point - Christianity IOI October 29, 6:30pm - Starting Point - Christianity IOI November 2, II:00am - Starting Point - Christianity IOI

#### Welcome Team

If you would like to be a friendly face, greet people, help out with nametags, and give a gift to visitors at worship on Sunday mornings, please signup on the sheet at the Welcome Table to be part of the Welcome Team. It would mean taking a turn manning the Welcome Table by 9:10am on Sunday morning. A schedule will be created after we have a list of willing helpers. Please speak with Pastor Schroeder if you have questions.

#### **Grief Share**

Our Redeemer is starting a Grief Share group to help people recover from the death of a loved one. This will be offered not only to our church family, but also to the community. If you have questions about this group, please speak with Sonja Todd or Karolyn Hanna who are coordinating this group.



#### Managing God's Gifts to Us

We often forget that we are, by nature, slaves to sin. That slavery rears its ugly head each day as we fool ourselves into believing that we are in control of our lives and are not actually slaves. Remaining in Jesus' words convinces us of the truth: we are slaves to sin, but Jesus has set us free. Only with this understanding are we able to freely serve Jesus and give him our best in every aspect of our lives—time, talents, treasures, truth, and temple. To help be kept informed of finances to carry out our ministry plans at Our Redeemer, here is the recent offerings report.

	Last Week	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Actual Offerings	\$4,821	\$7,966	\$121,121
<b>Budgeted Offerings</b>	\$2,600	\$7,800	\$113,822
Difference	\$2,221	\$166	\$7,299

### This Week at Our Redeemer

Sunday	October 26	9:30am	Sunday Worship
		II:00am	Sunday Bible Hour
		4:00pm	Joint Reformation Service at St. Paul's First-North Hollywood
Monday	October 27	4:30pm	Starting Point/Christianity 101 (private)
		7:00pm	Handbells' Practice
Wednesday	October 29	9:30am	Pastor's Office Hours
		6:30pm	Starting Point/Christianity 101 Bible Study
Thursday	October 30	II:ooam	Starting Point/Christianity 101 (private)
		3:15pm	Catechism Class
Friday	October 31	Reforma	ation Day
Saturday	November 1	Daylight Saving Time Ends (Turn clocks back one hour tonight)	
Sunday	November 2	9:30am	Sunday Worship (Holy Communion)
		II:00am	Sunday Bible Hour

# The LA Circuit of the AZ-CA District of the WELS

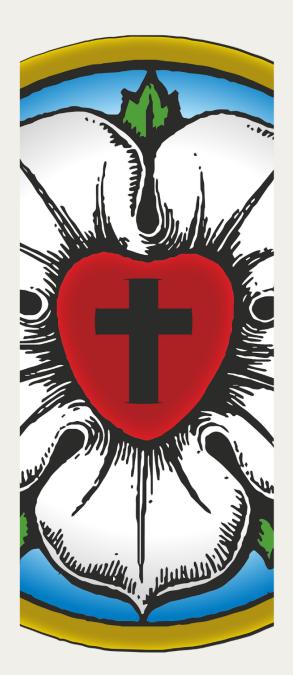
celebrates a

# Joint Reformation Service

Sunday, October 26, 4:00pm

St Paul's First Lutheran Church 5244 Tujunga Avenue North Hollywood, CA 91601

- Speaker: AZ-CA District President Pastor Joel Heckendorf
- Special Music provided by Adult Choir & Children's Choir
- Fellowship Meal to Follow



# **About Us**

#### **Our Mission**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has been serving the Santa Barbara community since 1968. As people who have been redeemed through faith in Jesus Christ, our mission is to: **Grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; **Encourage** one another; and **Proclaim** what we have seen and heard.



#### **Our Contact Information**

770 Vala Drive Santa Barbara, California 93III (805) 967-II28 orlcsb.net

# **Our Ministry**

Sunday Worship: 9:30am Sunday Online Broadcast available at our YouTube channel. Bible Study: Sundays at 11:00am; Wednesdays at 6:30pm

#### **Our Pastor**

Pastor Daniel Schroeder pastor.orlcsb@gmail.com (619) 852-2440

# **Our Church Body**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of our Wisconsin Synod and thirty-three other church bodies around the world of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).



# Let us know you were here!

