ADVENT
IMMINENT ARRIVAL

Service Focus:

Imminent Arrival of the King

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California
First Sunday in Advent | November 30, 2025

OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 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.

Connect Card

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 active 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 worship 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: Imminent Arrival

Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he impacts our lives when the Bible is read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

November 30	**First Sunday in Advent**	**Imminent Arrival of the King**
December 7	Second Sunday in Advent	Imminent Arrival of the Judge
December 14	Third Sunday in Advent	Imminent Arrival of the Messiah
December 21	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel

Service Focus

The king is an important person. His arrival at our place can mean something quite different to us depending on our relationship with him. We might fear his arrival if we expect him to punish us. We might welcome his arrival if we expect him to validate us. Either way, we expect his arrival to be a big deal. How would it make us feel if we heard that his arrival would be informal and familiar?

Advent marks the start of a new Church Year. We begin at the end, watching King Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing full well that he will be killed before the end of the week. The events of Palm Sunday serve as a microcosm for all Jesus' work, proving the King of the universe was willing to humble himself and endure anything for our salvation. That is precisely why Christ came. That is why we anticipate his imminent arrival not with worry but with joy.

Prayer Before the Service

Lord Jesus, my humble King, quiet my heart as I prepare to meet you today. Your arrival is never what I expect—majestic yet gentle, glorious yet lowly. As Advent begins, help me see in your ride to Jerusalem the love that carried you all the way to the cross for my salvation. Remove my fear, strengthen my faith, and fill me with joyful anticipation of your coming. Amen.

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder
Music Operator: Jim Brown
Audio/Visual Booth: Jim Everson, Josh Schueler
Usher: Lance Schroeder
Welcome Table: Joyce Ampe
Fellowship: Karolyn Hanna, Jan Scheffler

The Service

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Advent candle tradition began with 19th-century German Lutherans, turning winter candles into a symbol of Christ's coming. Each weekly candle increases our anticipation, and the evergreen wreath reflects God's enduring love. On Christmas, the Christ Candle shines, declaring that the promised Light of the world has come.

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.
We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.

We hear his call to watch.
We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed. Amen.

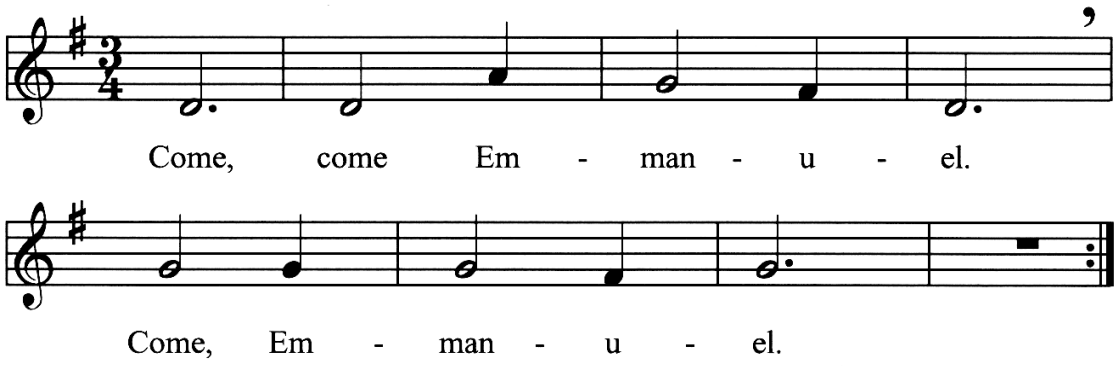
One Advent candle is lit.

Advent Gathering Song

This 20th-century Advent Gathering Song is written in the spirit of Taizé, with a repeated refrain sung by the congregation, and superimposed verses sung by the cantor or minister. The verses are drawn from the Scripture readings of the day.

The minister will sing the refrain one time and the congregation will then sing the refrain. The minister will sing the verses; all will sing the refrain where indicated.

Refrain



To the house of the Lord we ... ***Refrain***
Let us climb God's mountain and ... ***Refrain***
Let us walk in the light and ... ***Refrain***
Rejoice in the Lord always and ... ***Refrain***
See your King comes to you so ... ***Refrain***
Be prepared for the day God will ... ***Refrain***

Stand

Confession

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Amen.

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

God's people live in daily repentance. Now, when gathered in God's presence, the pastor invites them to confess their sins and ask God for his forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

Ruth 2:4

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

This prayer has been used by worshipers since the 900's AD.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

Children's Devotion

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

In the future, when our King arrives again, he will transform this world.

1 This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:
2 In the last days
the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,

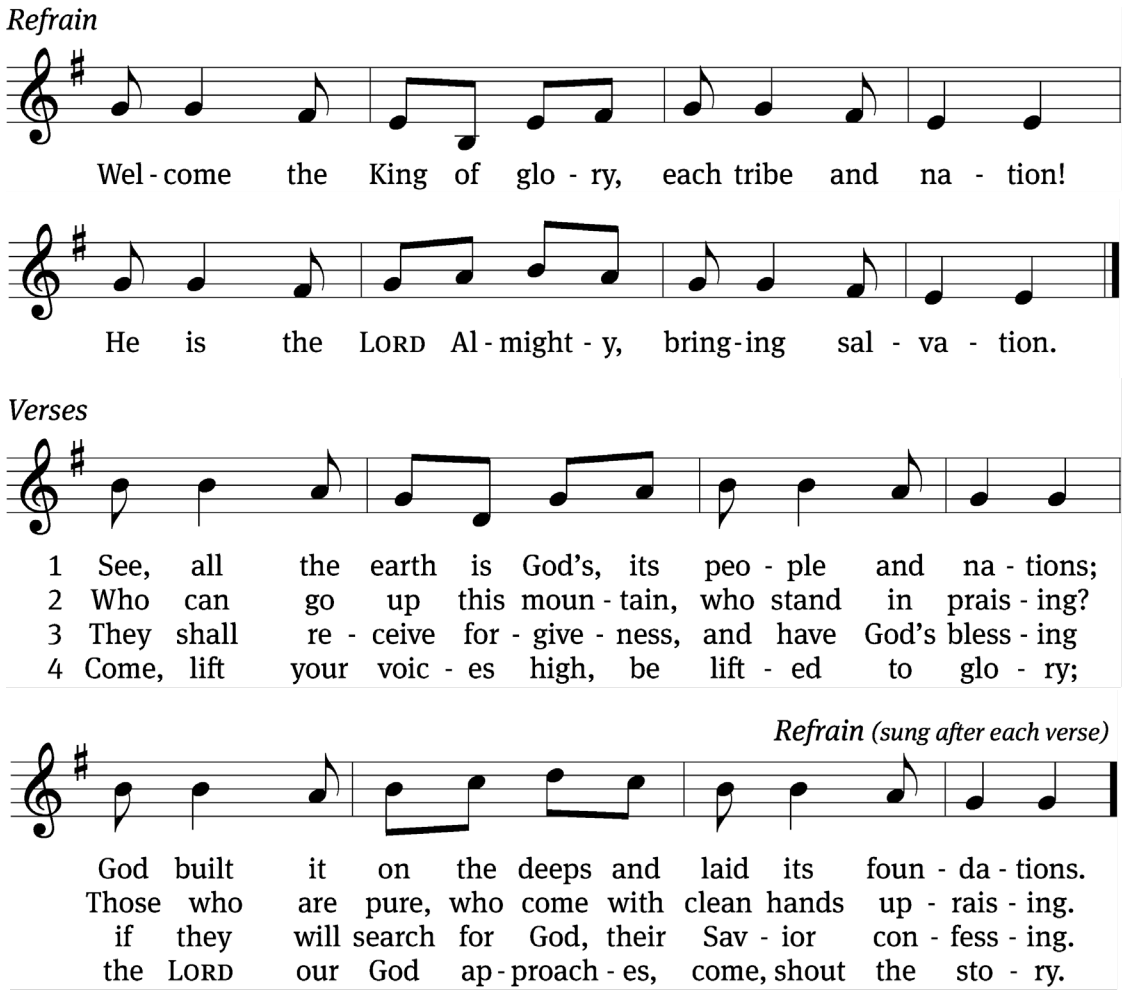
and all nations will stream to it.
3 Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
4 He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
5 Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Church sings Psalm 24 in services on the First Sunday in Advent and Palm Sunday, both anticipating the arrival of Christ the Lord. The psalm is a processional liturgy for the entrance of the King of glory into Zion.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 24



Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Our present life is transformed from nervousness to excitement and joy because of the arrival of the King.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to
all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer
and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Savior of the Nations, Come
Christian Worship 301

The words of this hymn have a 1,600 year history in the church. They were originally penned by Ambrose, one of the great fathers of the early church. Ambrose lived in the 4th century and is often referred to as "the father of church song." He helped make the singing of psalms and hymns and integral part of worship. This hymn states so clearly the Bible teaching of the miracle of God becoming a human being through the virgin birth.

Sermon

Matthew 21:1-11

The King of all creation arrives in total humility, willing to do everything necessary to save us from the consequences of our sin.

"Who Is This?"

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent
two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a
donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says
anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5 "Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and
the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread
their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the
road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." (NIV)

My Christian Life – Who Is This? //

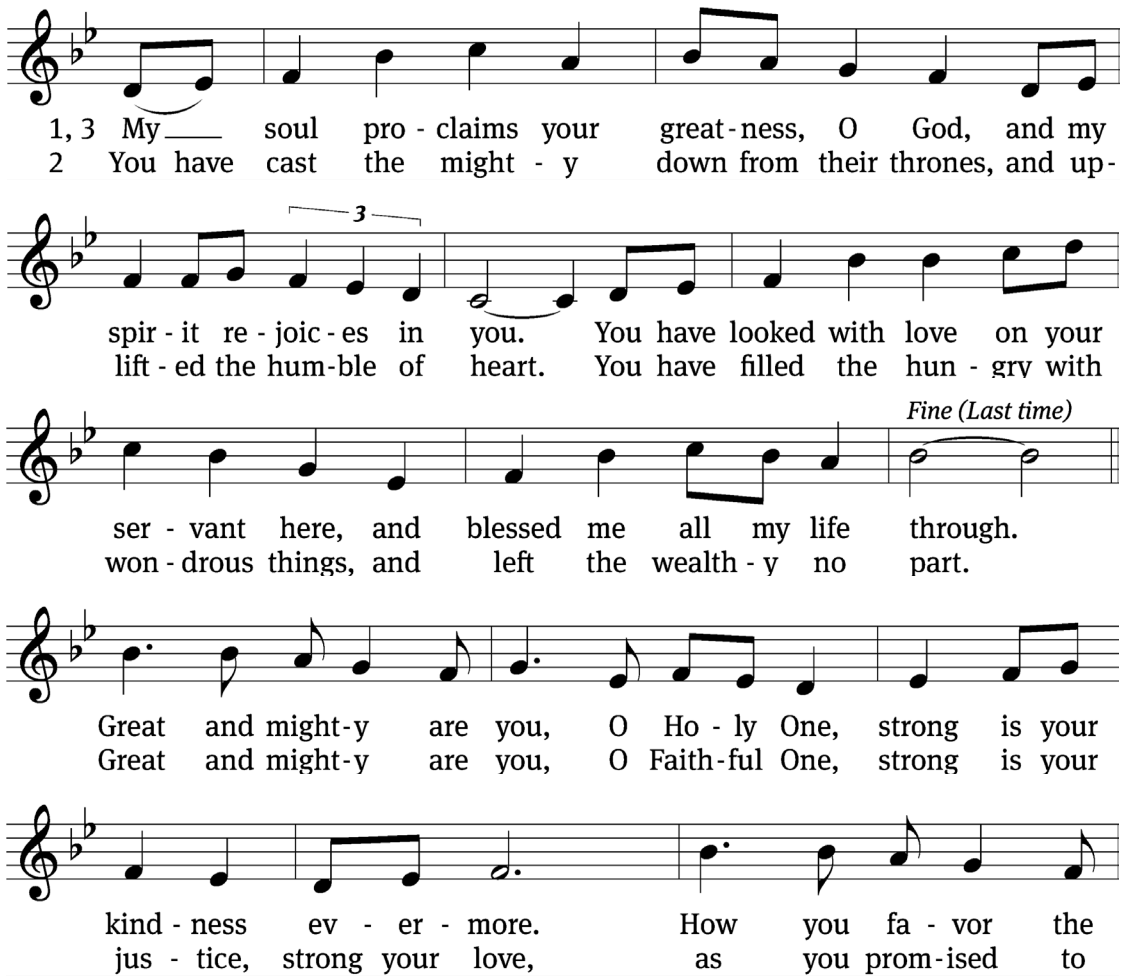
Jesus, our prophet, priest, and king, displayed his hidden glory as he won the eternal victory for us. Because of his victory, I want to ...

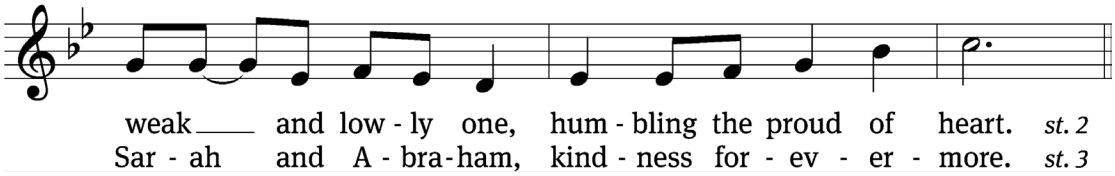
- ☐ Pray for an opportunity to invite someone this week to hear the words of my prophet, Jesus, as they come to worship at Christ the King. I know they need to hear Jesus' saving message.
- ☐ Offer a sacrifice of thanks to my priest, Jesus. My thanks could be donating toward something that helps others or giving an offering to further the gospel message.
- ☐ Honor my king, Jesus, by preparing for the celebration of his birth. I can use an Advent calendar to count down the days until Christmas and be reminded each day about my coming King.
- ☐ Other: _____

Stand

Based on Luke 1:46-55, Luther considered this song one of the most magnificent statements of faith in all the Scriptures. The Magnificat is the song of the faithful church as she waits quietly for the fulfillment of the word of promise.

Song of Mary *Magnificat*





The LORD instructs the prophet Habakkuk to write down what he was about to hear God say. That revelation empowered God's people to anticipate God's deliverance.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Spoken by the Pastor

Offering

In offering money as an expression of worship, we are responding to God's claim on our lives and giving him a portion of what he has in fact given us.

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 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.

Offering

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.

Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates
Christian Worship 305 (st. 1-3)

This hymn proclaiming the triumphant coming of Jesus was written by Georg Weissel (1590-1635) and was intended to be sung on the first Sunday in Advent. Weissel was a Lutheran pastor who served in Konigsberg, a city that was part of eastern Germany until after World War II when it became a part of Russia.

Closing Prayer

O Lord of Light, in the darkness of our sin and its death we had no place to turn but to you. You sent forth your Light into our darkness and clothed us in the light of Christ. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may live in his light and walk in his light, to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

All of our requests, all of our prayers, all of our needs are summed up in the prayer that our Savior, Jesus Christ, taught us to pray. 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 blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. See Numbers 6:24-26.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

The Advent of Our King
Christian Worship 309 (st. 1-4)

This 17th century hymn was commissioned by the Roman Catholic archbishop of Paris to replace the ancient Advent Latin hymns with more modern ones. Ironically, Coffin still wrote this "modern" hymn in Latin.

Acknowledgments

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Attendance

Sunday Morning Worship (November 23) - 46
Thanksgiving Eve Devotion Bonfire - 55
Sunday Morning Bible Study (November 23) - 19

Our Redeemer News

Upcoming Bible Studies at Our Redeemer

November 30, 11:00am - Starting Point - Christianity 101
December 3, 6:30pm - Starting Point - Christianity 101
December 7, 11:00am - Starting Point - Christianity 101

Thanksgiving Eve Devotion Bonfire

Thank you to all who helped with and were able to attend our first Thanksgiving Eve Devotion Bonfire. We had about 55 people able to attend as we were reminded that our thanks to God can be given even before he does what he has promised. Chili, hot dogs, s'mores, drinks, other foods, and the bonfire were enjoyed.

Church Work Day

We want to take care of what God has entrusted to us, so we will be having a church work day on Saturday, December 13, starting at 9am. This will help us spruce up our campus for Christmas.

Women's Ministry Group Food and Toy Drive

From now until Sunday, December 7, the Women's Ministry Group will have bins available if you would like to drop off non-perishable food items and/or toys to be donated to the Seasons of Hope organization to help those in need in our community this holiday season.

stewardship
Managing God's Gifts To Us

Managing God's Gifts to Us

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he chooses to use a donkey from someone and receive praise from others. As we prepare again for Christ's coming, he still receives our offerings of time, talents, treasures, temples (bodies), and handling of his truth (the Word). He welcomes them as praise for his coming to save us. 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	$3,350	$10,120	$137,917
Budgeted Offerings	$2,600	$10,400	$126,822
Difference	$750	$280	$11,095

This Week at Our Redeemer

Sunday	November 30	9:30am	Sunday Worship
		11:00am	Sunday Bible Hour
Monday	December 1	7:00pm	Handbells' Practice
Wednesday	December 3	6:30pm	Starting Point/Christianity 101 Bible Study
Thursday	December 4	9:30am	Pastor's Office Hours
		3:15pm	Youth Catechism Class
Sunday	December 7	9:30am	Sunday Worship (Holy Communion)
		11:00am	Sunday Bible Hour

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 93111
(805) 967-1128
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 1,200 plus churches of our Wisconsin Synod and 33 other church bodies around the world of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).

Let us know you were here!