



What Makes Christians *Different*

Service Focus:

Christians Are Planted by the Word

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost | July 12, 2026



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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 worshipping 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.

Series Focus - "What Makes Christians Different"

The Bible says Christians are different. Christians are people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. But they often look the same as those who do not believe in Jesus. How are Christians different? The answer is often something internal, attitudes or perspectives that come only from the work of the Holy Spirit in Word and sacrament. Ultimately, Christians are people who run to Christ for forgiveness because they have failed to live perfect lives. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to do all the things that Jesus says Christians do, things that make Christians different.

July 5	Festival of Freedom and Friendship	Christians Live in Two Kingdoms
July 12	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Are Planted by the Word
July 19	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Live as Wheat Among Weeds
July 26	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Seek Spiritual Wealth
August 2	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Trust God to Provide
August 9	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Answer Doubt With Faith

Service Focus

Planting seed by hand can be extraordinary. In your palm, the seed looks lifeless and insignificant. Place it in soil, and suddenly, all by itself, it germinates and reaches for the sun. Except when it doesn't. Plant many seeds, and often only some grow. The Bible describes Christians as planted by the Word. Why do some grow in faith and others don't? God promises his Word always accomplishes its purpose, powerful on its own. As we grow in faith, we thank God for this miracle.

Prayer before the Service

O God of growth, we praise you this day for your Word. We pray that your Word would cleanse our hearts and minds from anxiety, mistrust, and pride, so that it may take root in our lives and blossom into good works for you and our neighbor. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder

Music Operator: Al Todd

Instrumentalists: Marrissa Schueler (guitar), Linka Schroeder (flute)

Audio/Visual Booth: Josh Schueler, Jim Everson

Usher: Lance Schroeder

Welcome Table: Sonja Todd

Fellowship: Pam Schueler, Marrissa Schueler

The Service

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Speak, O Lord
Christian Worship 633

Concerning the text of this 21st century hymn, the composers say, "So incredible is the Word of God's power. It is our prayer that through the power of the Spirit, this hymn will prepare people to humbly listen to the Bible being taught and to respond to the huge consequences it has on their lives."

Stand

Confession

Matthew 28:19

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

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.

The confession emphasizes the themes of original and actual sins and the overriding need for the Lord's mercy.

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.

The pastor forgives all repentant sinners in God's place and by God's command (John 20:23).

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.

Jesus said that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. In response to the repentance expressed through confession and absolution, the church sings as the angels sang on Christmas night: "Glory be to God on high."

To God on High be Glory *Gloria*

Tune: EWING



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
 ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.

Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
 With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,

we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
 you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

The Word

The Lord be with you.

Ruth 2:4

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

This prayer comes from the Book of Common Prayer, 1549. It is an original prayer by Archbishop Thomas Cramner that used imagery from Ezekiel 3, where the prophet was commanded to eat the scroll.

Be seated

Children's Devotion

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-11

God's Word produces the fruit that God desires.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
 call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways

and the unrighteous their thoughts.
 Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.
 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.
 10 As the rain and the snow
 come down from heaven,
 and do not return to it
 without watering the earth
 and making it bud and flourish,
 so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
 11 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. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

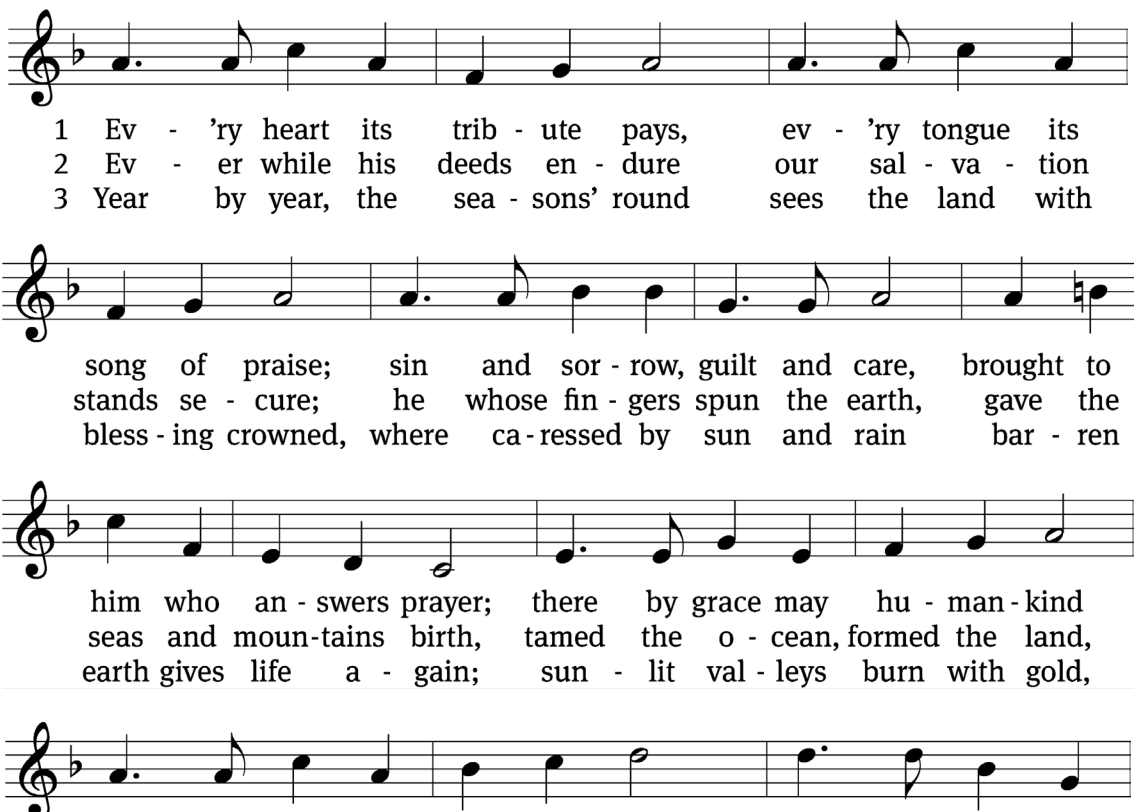
Thanks be to God.

*The Church sings
 Psalm 65 in services
 that emphasize the
 fruits that come from
 preaching and teaching
 the gospel.*

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 65

Every Heart Its Tribute Pays



1 Ev - 'ry heart its trib - ute pays, ev - 'ry tongue its
 2 Ev - er while his deeds en - dure our sal - va - tion
 3 Year by year, the sea - sons' round sees the land with
 song of praise; sin and sor - row, guilt and care, brought to
 stands se - cure; he whose fin - gers spun the earth, gave the
 bless - ing crowned, where ca - ressed by sun and rain bar - ren
 him who an - swers prayer; there by grace may hu - man - kind
 seas and moun - tains birth, tamed the o - cean, formed the land,
 earth gives life a - gain; sun - lit val - leys burn with gold,
 full and free for - give - ness find; called and cho - sen,
 spread the skies with might - y hand: far - off shores re -
 na - ture smiles on field and fold, gifts of God in



loved and blest, in his pres - ence be at rest.
vere his name, day and night his pow'r pro - claim.
plen - ty poured: all things liv - ing, praise the Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

*Jesus pictures ministry
as a planter scattering
seed.*

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear."

¹⁸"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." (NIV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast
Christian Worship 644

This hymn asks God to cause his Word to take root in the hearts of all who were in worship. The author of this hymn, John Cawood (1775-1852), was from a poor farming family in central England. He grew up to become an Anglican priest.

“The Growth is God’s”

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (NIV)

My Christian Life – The Growth is God's //

I cannot make faith grow, in myself or anyone else. Jesus, my foundation, was planted in a tomb and rose to give me life that never ends. My sins are forgiven. In thanks I can scatter his seed and trust him with the harvest. I want to ...

- ☐ Be part of planting the seed of the Word in the hearts of others. With whom this week will I share just even a snippet of the Word? I can look for an opportunity to cast the Word.
- ☐ I will water someone else’s faith this week by encouraging a struggling believer, since Apollos’s watering mattered even though he wasn’t the one who first planted.
- ☐ Pray for patience when God isn’t working on my timetable with someone’s faith. I want the seed of the Word to grow, but I need to trust that God is accomplishing all for his purpose.
- ☐ Other: _____

Stand

*Martin Luther's Ex-
planation to the Third
Article of the Apostles'
Creed from Luther's
Small Catechism.*

Confession of Faith

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Prayer of the Church

Lord God, heavenly Father, your word never returns to you empty, but always accomplishes what you send it to do. Trusting that promise, we bring our prayers to you. Lord, bless the pastors, teachers, and missionaries who plant and water your gospel seed. Give them boldness, even when the harvest stays hidden from their eyes. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, soften our hard hearts, root out the worry and riches that choke your word in us, and make us good soil that bears fruit with patience. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, your gospel is for every soil and every nation. Open doors for missionaries, and use even our words this week to plant your truth in hearts that do not know you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, guard our nation's leaders, and grant us peace to plant and water your word without fear. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, comfort the sick, the grieving, and the struggling, and keep us all planted in Christ our foundation until we are gathered into your eternal harvest. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands we entrust these prayers, confident the growth is yours alone to give, through Jesus Christ, our foundation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

*As Martin Luther wrote,
"We are all beggars,"
and in the Prayer of the
Church, beggars gather
together before the
throne of grace—not for
ourselves alone, but for
the whole world God so
loves.*

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 this morning**, we are so glad you're here! Please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. If you'd like to give, you may place a gift in the offering plate near the doors or **scan the QR code** to the right with your smartphone. We understand you may want to learn more about us first, and that's completely okay.



*After hearing God's holy
Word, the congregation
gathers its offerings of
thanks. We place our
offerings on the Lord's
altar to be used for his
work here in our con-
gregation and through
our church body.*

Connect Card



We would love it if you'd fill out a Welcome/Connect Card (located in the rack in front of you) and place it in the offering plate after the service — or scan the QR code to the left to connect with us online.

Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing
Christian Worship 932

This 20th-century hymn expresses that after receiving God's blessings, believers are sent into the world to live out their faith through loving service, unity, and witness. We thank God for his gifts and honor Christ by sharing his light and love with all people.

*Martin Luther wrote:
The Lord's Prayer is
one of the chief ways
God trains our faith,
because through its pe-
titions, we learn to cling
to his promises and rely
on his goodness.*

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.**

Closing Prayer

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

*The minister speaks
words drawn from
Numbers chapter 6 and
God's people respond
with a single, strong
"Amen," a Hebrew word
meaning "truth."*

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

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage
Christian Worship 640

Nikolai Grundtvig, the author of this hymn, was a Danish Lutheran pastor, hymnwriter, and educator who revitalized the church and championed the Christian faith against rationalism and apathy. His 1,400 hymns emphasize the Word of God, the Spirit, and doctrinal clarity.

Acknowledgments

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Attendance

Sunday Worship (July 5) - 48

Our Redeemer News

Congregational Meeting – Today

Our next congregational meeting will be this morning after worship. All are invited to stay for this congregational meeting to review how God has blessed Our Redeemer in the past months and what we are looking forward to in the upcoming months and year.

Martin Luther College Congregational Partner Grant

One of our own, Carlos Ampe, is studying at Martin Luther College (MLC) to become a Lutheran teacher, and we have a wonderful opportunity to invest in his training for gospel ministry. MLC’s Congregational Partner Grant Program lets congregations give toward a student’s tuition, and MLC will match that gift dollar for dollar, up to \$1,750 — meaning Carlos could receive up to \$3,500 toward his annual tuition. With MLC costing about \$28,570 per year, that help makes a real difference. Our church is participating, and we’ll receive a freewill offering toward our \$1,750 goal until after worship today, July 12. So far, about \$3,000 has been given — thank you! Place your offering in the plate with the memo “MLC.” Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support of Carlos as he prepares to serve the Lord’s church!



Managing God’s Gifts to Us

God has given us the privilege of participating in gospel ministry. We pray for the wisdom and desire to share Jesus with the world! We also remember that we are just messengers; may we not get in the way of the message. What’s important is Jesus. May our efforts be focused solely on God’s grace, love, and forgiveness. 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	\$1,629	\$1,629	\$100,258
Budgeted Offerings	\$3,124	\$3,124	\$85,131
Difference	\$1,495	\$1,495	\$15,128

This Week at Our Redeemer

Sunday	July 12	9:30am	Worship
		11:00am	Congregational Meeting
Tuesday	July 14	5:30pm	Starting Point/Christianity 101 (Individual)
Thursday	July 16	11:00am	Starting Point/Christianity 101 (Individual)
Sunday	July 19	9:30am	Worship (Lord’s Supper)

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
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Our Ministry

Sunday Worship: 9:30am
Sunday Online Broadcast available at our YouTube channel
Bible Studies: Sundays at 11:00am; Wednesdays at 7:00pm (both resume in August)
Starting Point/Christianity 101 classes: Thursdays at 6:30pm (resumes in August)

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!

