

The Beginning
of the End

A Message of Watchful Hope

Service Focus:

Invite the Unworthy

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost | October 11, 2026



770 Vala Drive | Santa Barbara, CA 93111
orlcsb.net | (805) 967-1128

Pastor Daniel Schroeder
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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 bags for children to use during the service are on the hooks on the back wall of church.

Series Focus - "The Beginning of the End"

"The End Is Near." For Christians, this is a message not of fear but of watchful hope. The End Times began with Christ's death and resurrection, and he will come again on judgment day. We live in between: salvation won, glory to come. It's the beginning of the end. No one knows the day or hour, so we stay awake in repentance and faith. Rather than predicting signs, we remain rooted in Jesus through his Word and sacraments. For believers, the end is truly a beginning.

October 4	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Speak Truth to Power
October 11	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	Invite the Unworthy
October 18	Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist	Offer Forgiveness
October 25	Reformation Day	Stay Steadfast
November 1	All Saints' Day	Focus on the Future

Service Focus

Don't you hate it when someone has prepared an excellent meal, but travel delays mean that certain friends or relatives don't get to enjoy it? Sometimes there are no leftovers, and an opportunity is lost.

God has prepared an extraordinary spiritual meal for all people. It is received by faith. But it is not offered forever. The day will come when body and soul are separated, and those who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior will not share in his blessings. It's the beginning of the end. Now is the time to issue the invitation!

Prayer before the Service

Generous and loving God, you provide me with all that I need to support my body and life. Make me content with your all that you give me, that I may serve you with thanks all my days. Keep my attention, anticipation, and priorities directed toward what is truly important - living forever with you in heaven where I will enjoy feasting at your banquet. I pray this in my Savior Jesus' name. 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: Matt Ampe

Welcome Table: Linka Schroeder

Flowers: Matt & Joyce Ampe

The Service

Welcome

Opening Hymn

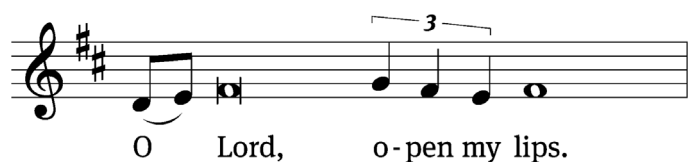
His Robes for Mine
Christian Worship 568

Written in 2008, this hymn has become a widely used modern hymn for its clear, Scripture-saturated confession of Christ's saving work. Its verses and refrain proclaim the "great exchange": Jesus bears our sin and judgment, and we are clothed—freely and fully—in his righteousness.

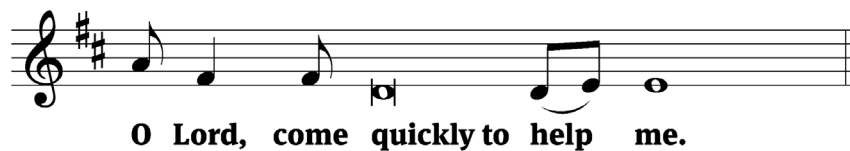
Stand

Opening Sentences

Psalm 51:15



Psalm 70:1



Psalm 36:9



Psalm 95:6



Come, Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord *Venite*

Psalm 95:1-7a

Refrain



Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a won - drous God,
2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,
Refrain
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

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

Ruth 2:4

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you invite us to trust in you for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of your judgment but by the greatness of your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated

Children's Devotion

*We proclaim that we
are saved through faith
alone.*

First Reading

Romans 1:16,17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*The Church sings
Psalm 84 in services
that emphasize the joy
of gathering in Christian
congregations around
the gospel in Word and
sacrament.*

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 84

**How lovely is your dwelling place,
LORD Almighty!**

**My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.**

**Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.**

**Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;**

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

**LORD Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you. (NIV)**

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

*The king gives us the
privilege of inviting
people to his wedding
banquet.*

¹ Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴ “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵ “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸ “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’

¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³ “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.” (NIV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness
Christian Worship 573 (st. 1-3)

This hymn by Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf (1700-1760) originally had 33 stanzas! Zinzendorf bought a plot of land in Germany where he welcomed Moravian refugees. He eventually became their leader and wrote 2,357 hymn texts. Zinzendorf wrote this hymn while returning from visiting a Moravian mission on the island of St. Thomas in the West Indies. .

“The Best Meal We Will Ever Eat”

⁶ On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.
⁷ On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people’s disgrace
from all the earth.
The LORD has spoken.
⁹ In that day they will say,
“Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” (NIV)

My Christian Life - The Best Meal We Will Ever Eat //

Knowing that I’m enjoying God’s gracious meal of the gospel, I can’t help but invite others to this banquet feast. I can ...

- ☐ Make a list and pray for a chance to share the good news of Jesus with a friend, relative, acquaintance, neighbor, a parent of my kid’s classmate, or someone I know from the Internet (FRANKI).
- ☐ Schedule regular “banquet meals” with my Savior by putting Sunday worship and devotions as part of my weekly schedule. I know my faith can’t go without the feast of the gospel.
- ☐ Provide a meal for someone. In the conversation share with those eating how meals can remind us that the best meal we can ever have is Jesus’ forgiving love at heaven’s banquet.
- ☐ 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.

Refrain Cantor/choir first time; assembly repeats, then sings after each verse



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you. To



you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.



praise, all cre - a-tion of-fers praise, all cre - a-tion of-fers praise.



- 1 With the an - gels in heav - en, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 2 Cre - a - tor of all things, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 3 O — Christ, King of glo - ry, **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the cher-u - bim and ser-a-phim, **we praise you, we praise you!**
O — Je-sus Christ, the Son of God, **we praise you, we praise you!**
You be-came a man to set us free; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With a - pos - tles and proph - ets, **we praise you, we praise you!**
O — Spir - it, most ho - ly, **we praise you, we praise you!**
You have ris - en to free us; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the mar-tyrs and your ho-ly Church, **we sing in end-less praise!**
To the Trin - i - ty most bless - ed, **we sing in end-less praise!**
And with all your saints in glo - ry, **we sing in end-less praise!**

Be seated

Martin Luther taught that prayer is both command and promise—God not only tells us to pray, but also promises to hear us—so the Church prays boldly and regularly for the needs of all.

Prayer of the Church

Gracious Father, you have set a table full of good things and invited us to come. Too often we have been too busy to listen. Forgive us, and dress us in the perfect life of Jesus, so we can sit at your table unashamed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give us courage to share the good news of Jesus with the people we know and love. Make us glad to invite them in, whoever they are. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bless our congregational meeting today. Help us listen to one another and work together with one heart. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give peace to our world, and give wisdom to our president, our governor, and all who lead us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You promise to wipe away every tear. Hold close the sick, the lonely, the grieving, and all who are hurting, [especially ____]. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Keep us near you until the day we sit down at your heavenly feast, where the celebration never ends; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.

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.



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

Come unto Me, Ye Weary
Christian Worship 706

This hymn of invitation by William Dix (1837-1898) is based on Matthew 11:28. Of its composition, Dix wrote in a letter to a friend: "I was ill and depressed at the time, and ... felt weary and faint ... the hymn really expresses the languidness of body from which I was suffering at the time. Soon after its composition ... I recovered, and I always look back to that hymn as the turning point in my illness." Dix, who is also the author of "What Child Is This?", was a marine insurance manager in Glasgow, Scotland.

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 Lord's Prayer teaches us how to approach God "as dear children ask their dear Father"—boldly, with trust that he delights in hearing and answering us.

Closing Litany

In heaven, the banquet of God is prepared. The richest of wines have been poured. The choicest of breads have been baked. And the finest of foods have been set out on tables.

And we are invited to be his very special guests.

But we who are foolish have cast God's invitation aside, not caring about what God is doing especially for each one of us.

Forgive our apathetic ways, O Lord.

We who are foolish have chosen to accept invitations from the false gods of money, fame and popularity.

Forgive our selfish ways, O Lord.

We who are foolish fail to remember the salvation God has scheduled for our future days.

Forgive our forgetfulness, O Lord.

And we who are foolish decide to follow along with people who deny God and have only their own interests at heart.

Forgive our ungodly ways, O Lord.

Yet, because of Christ's perfect life and sacrifice on the cross for our foolish ways, God still chooses to invite us and bring us into his heavenly banquet hall.

Now may we, who have been forgiven by God, invite more people to come to the great and grand feast of God's grace.

May we hold his divine invitation close to our hearts.

And may we anticipate with joy the day God will welcome us into heaven.

The closing litany is a form of responsive prayer or declaration that concludes a service. It typically involves a series of petitions or affirmations that the congregation responds to collectively. It serves to unify the congregation in a final act of worship before dismissal.

Blessing

May the God who is now, and always will be, go with you. May you be aware of God working within your world this week, through the love that has been created in your heart and soul and mind. May you know God's glorious forgiving power, alive among the children of God. And may the blessing of the almighty God – the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit – be and abide with you always.

Amen.

This closing blessing places God's own triune name on his people as they leave, sending them out with the same promise Jesus gave his church: "surely I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

Closing Hymn

Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See
Christian Worship 884

The words of this hymn were penned by the German Lutheran pastor Paul Gerhardt, considered by many as the most gifted and popular hymnwriter of the Lutheran church. Note how this hymn takes us into the throne room of heaven, and how our wedding garments and crown we wear at the feast in heaven are a gift from our bridegroom Jesus.

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.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under OneLicense no. 743037. All rights reserved.

Attendance

Sunday Worship (October 4) - 43

Our Redeemer News

Upcoming Bible Studies at Our Redeemer

Wednesday, October 14, 7:00pm - Midweek Bible Study - "Colossians: Christ Reigns Supreme"

Sunday, October 18, 11:00am - Sunday Bible Study - "Lessons from the Lives of Powerful Politicians"

Congregational Meeting – Today

Our next congregational meeting will be today, October 11, after worship. All are invited to 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.

Help Keep Our Grounds Beautiful

Our Redeemer's property is one of the first things our neighbors and guests see, and we'd love to share the work of caring for it. We're looking for members willing to commit to mowing the church grounds for about 4 hours per month. With more hands involved, no one has to carry the load alone, and it's a simple, practical way to serve your church family. Right now we're just gauging interest, so please don't hesitate to reach out even if you're only considering it. Contact Jim Brown at jebrown10@cox.net to let him know you'd like to help.

Managing God's Gifts to Us

What happens when we make a good investment? We reap the benefits. When we were baptized, the Lord made a good investment in us. He washed us. He saved us. He marked us as his own. One day we'll sit down to an incredible banquet in heaven. We'll enjoy the choicest foods and the finest drinks. As we look at each other across the table, we'll see how the Lord's investment paid off. It's not a full bank account, an incredible wardrobe, and a stable of sports cars. It's you; it's me—with the Lord forever! 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	\$6,055	\$6,055	\$146,407
Budgeted Offerings	\$3,124	\$3,124	\$125,307
Difference	\$2,931	\$2,931	\$21,100

This Week at Our Redeemer

Sunday	October 11	9:30am	Sunday Worship (with Sunday School)
		11:00am	Congregational Meeting
Monday	October 12	7:00pm	Handbells' Practice
Tuesday	October 13	5:15pm	Starting Point Class (Individual)
Wednesday	October 14	7:00pm	Midweek Bible Study
Thursday	October 15	10:00am	GriefShare Group
		3:15pm	Youth Catechism Class
		7:00pm	Strategic Plan Task Force Meeting
Saturday	October 17	10:30am	Mission Connections (Connect Group)
		11:00am	The Traveling Fork (Connect Group)
Sunday	October 18	9:30am	Sunday Worship (Lord's Supper)
		11:00am	Sunday Bible Study
		4:00pm	Chef's Connection (Connect Group)

Sign up to help on the
Information Table in the courtyard

Fall FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
4:00 – 6:00 PM

TRUNK OR TREAT, PUMPKIN CARVING
FACE PAINTING, CHILI COOK-OFF
PIE CONTEST & MORE!

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
770 Vala Drive | Santa Barbara



www.orlcsb.net

LA Circuit of the AZCA District of the WELS

celebrates a

Joint Reformation Service



St Paul's First Lutheran Church

5244 Tujunga Ave

North Hollywood, CA 91601

Sunday, October 25 - 4:00 p.m.

Speaker: MLC Professor

Paul Koelpin

**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 93111
(805) 967-1128
orlcsb.net

Our Ministry

Sunday Worship: 9:30am
Sunday Online Broadcast available at our YouTube channel
Bible Studies: Sundays at 11:00am; Wednesdays at 7:00pm
Starting Point/Christianity 101 classes: Thursdays at 7:00pm

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!

