

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER! We welcome all who are visiting with us this morning. We are delighted to have you with us. Please fill out one of our visitor cards so that we can get to know you. If you have any questions about COTR, feel free to ask one of our elders, our ministers, or members. We're glad you're here!

Today--THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: We rejoice this morning to have the baptism of Simeon Athanasius Gunter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Gunter. Please pray that Simeon will continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

HOSPITALITY MEAL TODAY: We will have our weekly hospitality meal today in the fellowship hall after our morning service. If you have no plans for lunch, feel free to join some of our COTR families for some great food and fellowship.

Wednesday--SCHOOL OF CULTURAL RENEWAL: Our Spring School of Cultural Renewal begins this Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. with a meal in the fellowship hall, prepared by Micah McCoy, followed by our classes which will begin at 6:10. SCR will continue for the next five Wednesdays. The two classes for this session are "How to Read the Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets)" taught by Zach Parker and "A Musical Feast: A Survey of Church Hymnody" taught by Jarrod Richey. You need to let us know if you're coming for the meal by tomorrow. Don't forget! You don't want to miss this outstanding opportunity to learn so make plans to come.

Friday--FIRST FRIDAY YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP: This Friday we'll have our next "Young Adult Fellowship" for all our collage aged young men and women. Make plans to join us for some great food, encouraging fellowship, and stimulating discussion!

GENERAL:

THANK YOU! A big "thank you!" to everyone who made our Shrove Tuesday celebration another great success. Special thanks to Ronnie and Carol Medlin for organizing and executing the food and the meal, and to all our excellent cooks and bakers who made the great casseroles, meat, eggs, and rolls, and to our pancake makers, once again, a great job! Thanks also to Aaron Booth for organizing the outstanding entertainment - and to all our entertainers! It was tremendous in every way. Thanks to all of you who made it such a great time.

THE SEASON OF LENT: Lent is a time of preparation for the feast of Easter, the celebration of Jesus' victory over sin, Satan, and death itself. Lent lasts for forty days prior to Easter (Sundays are excluded), and it provides a season in which we can focus upon repentance (turning away from sin and walking in new obedience) and doing this in light of the sufferings and death of our Savior. This is the time when we remember our calling to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Jesus. The goal of Lent then is not self-deprivation or self-accusation. Rather, Lent is a time to focus upon the great debt that was paid by Jesus for our deliverance from the guilt and punishment of our sins. In remembering Jesus' work in our behalf, we see afresh the sinfulness of sin and the glory of God's forgiveness - and seeing these things, we are strengthened to be faithful to turn away from sin and temptation day by day and walk in obedience. So, each Sunday during the Lenten season is to be a time of celebration, rejoicing in the glorious reality that Jesus has defeated the world, the flesh, and the devil, and giving thanks that we are given the privilege of following Him, being used by Him to extend the fruits of His victorious work throughout the earth. So this is the goal of Lent: to see afresh the great love of Jesus, and by the Spirit to be transformed into His image so that we can live to the glory of the Father as He did.

UPCOMING:

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY: Our monthly Ladies Bible Study will resume the first Tuesday of March (March 7) at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. All ladies are invited so make plans to come!

CALENDAR

February 26 - First Sunday in Lent

March 1 - SCR, eat at 5:15 p.m., classes begin at 6:10 p.m.
3 - First Friday Young Adult Fellowship, 7:00 p.m.
7 - Ladies' Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., choir room
8 - SCR #2, meal at 5:15, classes begin 6:10 p.m.
10 - Renewal Center lunch, 11:30 a.m.
12 - Second Sunday service
15 - SCR #3, meal at 5:15, classes begin at 6:10 p.m.
22 - SCR #4, meal at 5:15, classes begin at 6:10 p.m.
29 - SCR #5, meal at 5:15, classes begin at 6:10 p.m.

April 2 - Palm Sunday

4 - Ladies' Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., choir room
7 - Good Friday service, 6:00 p.m.
9 - Easter Sunday
14 - Renewal Center lunch, 11:30 a.m.
15 - Delta Youth Chorale/Monroe Symphony Concert, 7:00 p.m.
25 - Ad Hoc meeting of Wycliffe Presbytery, 9:00 a.m.
at COTR

NURSERY WORKERS FOR TODAY:

Infant: AM: Anna Dlugosh, Abby McCarty
Floater: Maggie Myers

Toddler: AM: Shelby Maddox, Matt Wilkins
Floater: Arthur Richey

NEXT WEEK:

Sophie Booth, Carol Walters
Maddie Cross

Peter Nash, Adam Jones
Carson McBroom

CHURCH of the REDEEMER is a member of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC). The CREC is an international church community with member congregations all across North and South America, Western and Eastern Europe, and Eastern Asia. We are evangelical believers who embrace the historic Christian faith, in the Protestant Reformation tradition. More information may be found at <https://crechurches.org>.

CHURCH of the REDEEMER

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THE LORD'S SERVICE

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

10:00AM MORNING SERVICE

THE LORD CALLS US TO DRAW NEAR

MINISTER: “In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, let us worship God.”

† HYMN #315 *“God Himself is With Us”*

† SALUTATION:

Minister: “Grace to you and peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord be with you.”

Cong: “And with your spirit”

Minister: “The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

Cong: “Come, let us adore Him.”

Minister: “Have mercy on me, O Lord! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, . . . that I may tell of all Your praise In the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation.” **Amen.**

THE LORD CLEANSSES US

CONFESSION OF SINS:

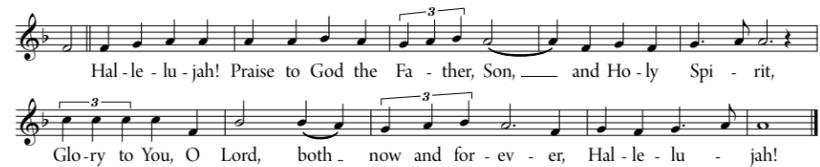
Minister: “Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins to Almighty God”

Cong: Most gracious God, we confess that we have not loved You fervently nor loved our neighbors as ourselves; we have not done justly, loved mercy, nor walked humbly with You. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from all our sins. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and sustain us with a willing spirit, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Minister: “Arise and hear the good news of God’s forgiveness: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

† OPENING ACCLAMATION:

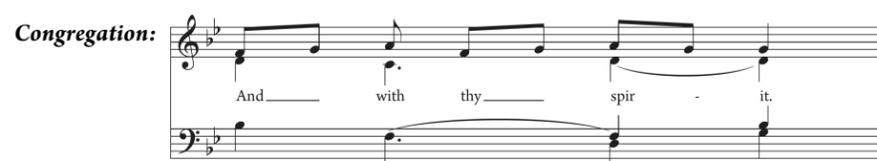


Hal-le-lu-jah! Praise to God the Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit,
Glo-ry to You, O Lord, both now and for-ev-er, Hal-le-lu-jah!

† ASCENSION (Sung Preface & Sursum Corda):

Minister: The Lord be with You.

Congregation:



And with thy spir-it.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

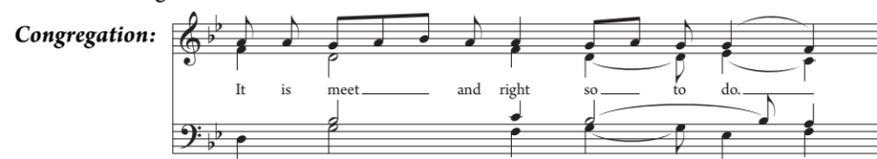
Congregation:



We lift them up un-to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

Congregation:



It is meet and right so to do.

Minister: “It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee. O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God: Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing:”

†The Congregation will please stand

† SANCTUS (p. vii, SH)

† PRAYER OF ADORATION

† CANTICLE #7 (SH) *“Worthy is the Lamb”*

THE LORD INSTRUCTS US

THE LESSON

Genesis 3:1-21

Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”

Cong: “Thanks be to God.”

CONGREGATIONAL PSALM

Psalm 32

THE EPISTLE

Romans 5:12-19

Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”

Cong: “Thanks be to God.”

† HYMN #437 *“Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground”*

† READING OF THE GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

Minister: “The Gospel of our Lord.”

Cong: “Praise be to You, O Christ.”

† THREE-FOLD ALLELUIA:



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

† PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *“No Easy Way Out, But the Cross”*

Mr. Zachary Parker

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY #507 *“Take Up Thy Cross”*

(the congregation will sing this hymn)

† DOXOLOGY (We lift our hearts, voices, and hands in praise to God)

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

†The Congregation will please stand

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US

HYMN #522 *“Through All the Changing Scenes of Life”*

† PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:

Minister: Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

† THE LORD’S PRAYER: page ix (SH)

† NICENE CREED:

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

AND IN ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sits on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

AND WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY GHOST; the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead; And the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE LORD’S SUPPER:

Words of Institution

Thanksgiving for the Bread

Communion Hymn #83 (SH) *“Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All”*

Thanksgiving for the Wine

Passing the peace of Christ

Minister: “The Body and Blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith unto life everlasting; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” *Amen.*

THE LORD COMMISSIONS US

† HYMN #5 (SH) *“Nunc Dimittis”*

† BENEDICTION

† THREE-FOLD AMEN

†The Congregation will please stand