



Redeemer Church Office
Tel: 414-933-7004
admin@redeermilwaukee.org
www.redeermilwaukee.org



September 13, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
631 N. 19th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHER/PRESIDER: Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

LITURGICAL ASSISTANT: Lisa Reinhardt

READER: Kari Wellhausen

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Jeff Bray

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Lisa Miller and Tom Wellnitz

ALTAR GUILD: Elaine Lindstrom and Brittany Wilson

USHERS/GREETER: Dorothy Zeidler, Jacob Habeck and Sean Holub

PRELUDE

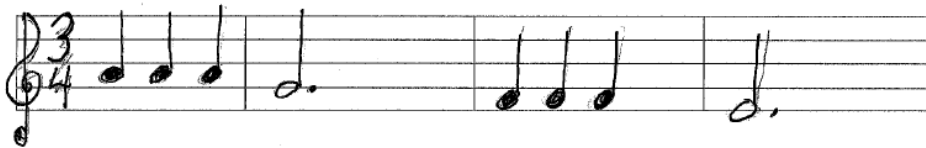
"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

Matt Redman

MEDITATION CHANT

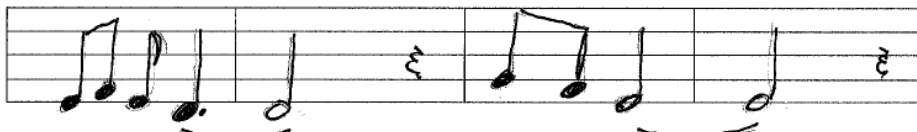
"Celtic Poem"

Jeff Bray



O Sacred Three

My fortress be



Encircling me

Come and be



Round my hearth and home

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

(please stand if able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: Life Together in Mercy

We gather as God's family, called to love one another sincerely, to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

Lord, we confess that we have not always lived as your family.

When our brothers and sisters hurt us, we have sometimes held onto anger rather than seeking reconciliation.

Forgive us for the grudges we carry, the words we speak in anger, and the wounds we refuse to acknowledge.

You call us to let love be genuine, to honor one another, to practice hospitality, and to live in harmony.

Forgive us for the times we have chosen our own way over the good of the community—for jealousy, resentment, pride, and indifference.

Like Jonah, we confess that sometimes we would rather see others judged than welcomed, punished than restored, excluded than embraced.

When your mercy toward others troubles us, expand our minds and hearts to see others as you do: as people worthy of grace.

In Christ, God does not hold our sins against us. We are forgiven +, restored, and called again into the family of God.

By the grace of God, we will seek peace, practice mercy, and love one another. Amen.

OPENING SONG

"Faithful Family" (vs 1 and 2)
(next page)

Rory Cooney

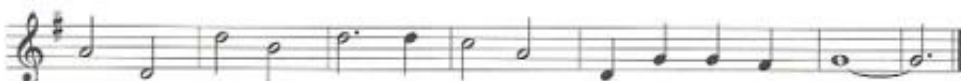
Refrain



Be like our God, who chose to live and learn our ways, and



die in deep, un-bound-ed love. For-give each



oth - er ten-der - ly. The faith-ful fam-'ly of our God.

Verses



1. Where ev - er there is char - i - ty, self - less, giv - ing
2. And let us love the Liv - ing God, mer - ci - ful, and
3. ‡ When we are to - geth - er, let us act as
4. ‡ One day in the com - pan - y of the saints in



care, sure - ly our God is there.
kind, bod - y and heart and mind.
one, ways of greed and con - flict done.
light, may we see your face shine bright;



The love of Christ has gath - ered us to one from is - land
‡ Let us love each oth - er well, hold the stran-ger
‡ Let there be no bit - ter-ness, quar-rel-ing, nor
‡ Bright up - on your fam - i - ly, faith-ful, hu - man,



ways: let us sing for joy all our days.
dear, reach-ing out to all with-out fear.
strife. In our midst is Christ, our life.
flawed. Shine in glo-ry, Christ, our God.

D.C.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lisa Reinhardt

God of Grace, you call us to forgiveness that we could never imagine without your example in Jesus. Work through your Spirit to make our hearts ready to give and receive forgiveness so that we may serve you with joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(please sit)

FIRST READING

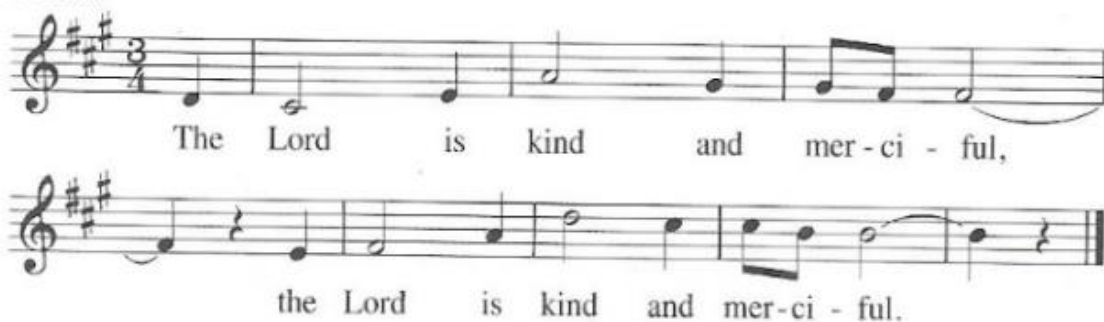
Genesis 50: 15 – 21

Kari Wellhausen

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, **"What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"** ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, **"Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good,** in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Refrain



Verses

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all my being bless his name;
bless the Lord, and forget not his benefits.
2. He pardons all your iniquities,
and comforts your sorrows,
redeems your life from destruction,
and crowns you with his kindness.
3. Merciful, merciful,
and gracious is our God;
slow to anger, abounding in kindness.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*"Alleluia"**Jerry Sinclair*

(please stand if able)

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 18: 21 – 35

Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

The Good News of Jesus Christ as written in the Gospel of Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, '**Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.**' ²⁷**And out**

of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ **Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?**' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**
(please sit)

SERMON

"Forgiveness in Families"

Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

SERMON SONG

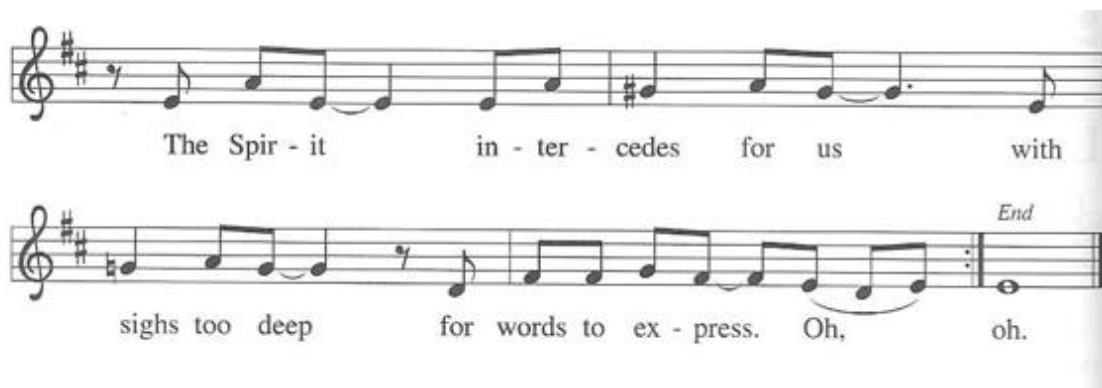
"I Come with Joy"
(prayer squares are collected)

Red Book 482

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"The Spirit Intercedes for Us"

Larry Olson



SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

"Forgiveness"

Matthew West

OFFERING PRAYER

Lisa Reinhardt

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

Song

Richardson/Bray

And the ta-ble will be wide. And the wel-come will be wide.

And the arms will o - pen wide to ga-ther us in.

And our hearts will o-pen wide to re - ceive.

Presider's Prayer

Reprise "Table Will Be Wide"

(please stand if able)

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. God, you are our Holy Parent, our Mother and . . .

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation (please sit)

COMMUNION SONG

"There in God's Garden"

Red Book 342

POST COMMUNION BLESSING**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lisa Reinhardt

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance
of your love and forgiveness.
May our lives witness to these gifts
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

(stand)

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"

Red Book 777

DISMISSAL Go now in peace. Forgive, as you have been forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church office is open, **9 – 1, Monday – Thursday**. Call **414-933-7004**, or email admin@redeemermilwaukee.org to set up an appointment with a pastor.

BIBLE STUDY – Mondays – 12:30 in the Gathering Space

- We'll be looking at **Matthew 20: 1 – 16**.

LUNCH AT OLGA'S

- **We are in need of servers throughout Fall** for the Olga Sunday Meal hosted at Redeemer. We need at least 12 people. If you can volunteer individually, as a family or as a small group, please sign up at olganws.com/volunteer.

SIGN UP GENIUS FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- Please use the link or QR barcode to sign up to be a worship leader. You can sign up to be the liturgical assistant, reader and communion assistant. September and October dates out there now.
- [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AAA82CA2FCC34-64339932-worship#/
worship#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AAA82CA2FCC34-64339932-worship#/)



OUTREACH FOR HOPE – RIDE, RUN, WALK 2026

- This year's Ride, Run, Walk is being held on **Saturday, September 26**, starting at 8:30 AM. There are four sites you can participate at:
 - Grafton: Meets at Grace Lutheran Church
 - Kenosha: Meets at Petrifying Springs Park
 - Milwaukee: Meets at Washington Park (no bike rides at this site)
 - Waukesha: Meets at Fox River Sanctuary
- For more information, go to OFHRRW.org or contact Brittany Wilson who is our ambassador this year. There is also information in the narthex.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF REDEEMER?

- We welcome all people who are involved in the worship and life of Redeemer to consider becoming an official member of this faith community.
- Becoming a member doesn't mean you have to make a pledge or be housed. Being a member here simply means you want Redeemer to be your spiritual home, that you worship here and support the ministry in whatever way you can—whether that is your time, your prayers, or financial contributions. Here, all are welcome and encouraged to be a part of this ministry.
- Pastor Heidi will be holding a gathering downstairs in the Mission Partner Space, today, **Sunday, September 13th** following worship. She will give a little background on this congregation and what it means that we are a "Lutheran" church. It will also be a time to ask questions and get to know other prospective members.
- On **Sunday, September 20th** we will have a brief part of the service to welcome the New Members.
- *If you can't make these days but are still interested, please reach out to Pastor Heidi.*

JOIN THE MET TEAM FOR COFFEE HOUR – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – 9 AM

- Greet the MET Team before worship on the 20th. They will be there to answer your questions on the MET process. It will be held in the Mission Partner Space.

WE HAVE A SUGGESTION BOX!

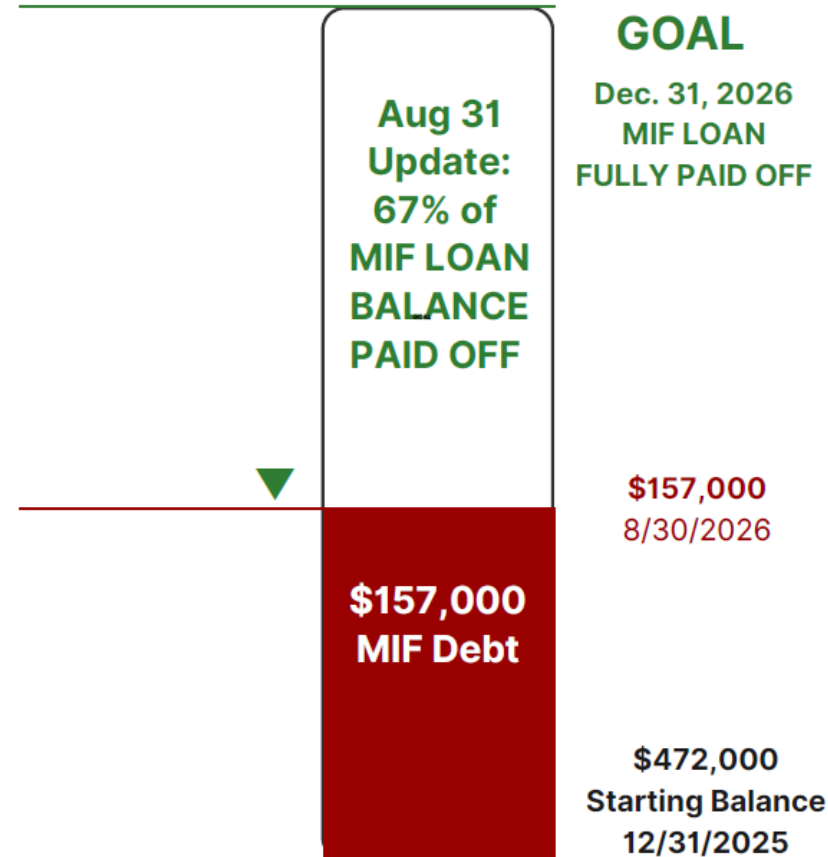
- Box is located in the Narthex on one of the large tables.
- Please put any questions, suggestions, or thoughts that you'd like to share with the MET and leadership in there, and we will check it weekly. Also, feel free to reach out to Pastor Heidi and the other members of the MET: Solomon Tesfai (chair), LuAnn Blohm, Scott McIntosh, Lisa Myers, Nancy Grothe, and Donnie Bogle-Boesiger (council president).

PLAN AHEAD – SEMI ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

- Pet Blessing – Saturday, October 10 at 10 AM in North Parking Lot
- Semi Annual Meeting – Sunday, October 18, right after the service in the sanctuary.

DRAINING THE DEBT

ELCA Mission Investment Fund
LOAN PAYDOWN



Every dollar of debt drains resources away from Redeemer's operating budget and our neighborhood ministries.

