

Worship
at
Christ the Redeemer
Lutheran Church



For Lutherans, worship matters.

In fact, worship lies at the heart of how we understand ourselves together.

Today, worship practices among Lutherans reflect different patterns, different pieties, different ethnic backgrounds and experiences, and some influences that are not Lutheran at all.

Worship at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church follows the tradition of worship which received its characteristic shape during the earliest centuries of Christendom and was reaffirmed during the Reformation era. Freedom and flexibility in worship is a Lutheran inheritance, and here at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church we utilize lots of variety in texts, ceremony, music and liturgical form. Worship is planned by the staff with care and integrity, using the prescribed readings in the 3-year lectionary as the basis for hymn selection, prayers, confession texts, etc.

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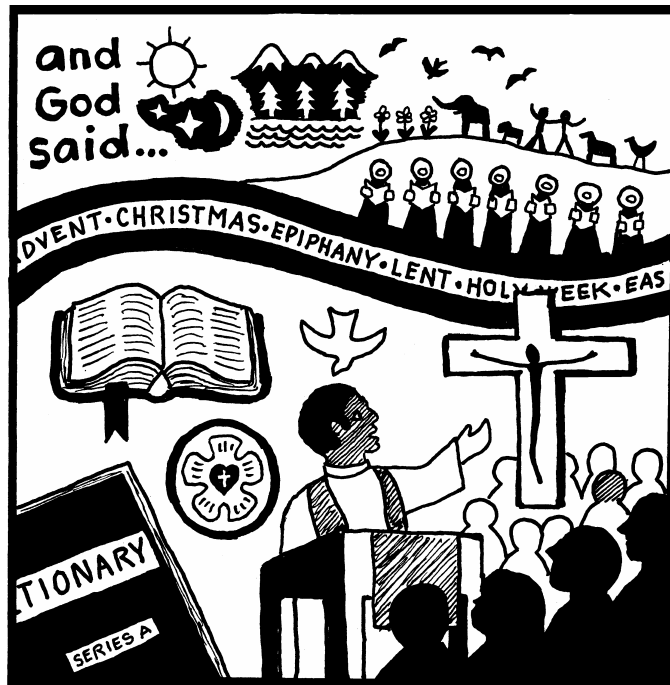
We gather weekly for worship with Holy Communion.

Saturdays at 5 PM and Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 AM believers assemble to *Gather* as the Church, hear God's *Word* proclaimed, share in the *Meal*, and to be *Sent* out into the world to proclaim the love of Jesus and to serve in God's name. All who believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of communion are invited to the table. (Sunday worship items change to 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM in the summer.)

The Church Calendar

Part of the beauty of following the tradition of worship which has its roots in the earliest centuries is the adherence to the church calendar, following the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, each with a particular characteristic and theme of lessons.

Along with following the church calendar we follow the 3-year lectionary, a prescribed series of lessons to be read each week of the year.





Advent

During the weeks in Advent, we gather for worship on Tuesday evenings for **Holden Evening Prayer**. In the dimly lit sanctuary, (sometimes with incense), we sing evening songs, psalms, Mary's Song – all interspersed with prayer. It is the pause for reflection and meditation to counteract the 'busy-ness' of the preparations for the Christmas festival.

The first Tuesday in Advent (November 30, 2010) is the **Advent Tea**. This is an outreach to the community for women to gather, reflect one of the themes of Advent, then enjoy fellowship over tea and holiday cookies. Offerings are gathered for the Domestic Violence Center (a women's shelter and support organization).

A **Longest Night** of the year **Liturgy** gathers worshipers from Triune Lutheran Church, St. Matthew Episcopal Church, and CRLC to express grief and sadness which is often felt at this time of the year, and to offer prayers for healing and comfort.



Christmas

Christmas Eve worship at CRLC celebrates the Eucharist at all services. The 5:30 PM service is designed for families with young children and the Children's Choir sings. The 7:30 and 9:30 PM services include a fuller liturgy with more music, preaching and Candle-lighting. Many traditional carols are sung at each service and on the Sundays following Christmas Eve.

Lent

Ash Wednesday (March 9, 2011) marks the beginning of Lent; our liturgy at 7:00 PM includes the imposition of ashes. During the season of Lent **mid-week worship** is a strong tradition as a way of continuing the journey of walking with Christ through his passion. Wednesdays have traditionally included Evening Prayer following a simple meal.

Lent is a spring housecleaning of the soul. As we prepare for Easter we are invited to clear the clutter and wash away the grit and grime. The simplicity of the season calls us to focus on things that matter most. Prayer and fasting may turn us inward for a time, but the increasing light and warmth sends us back to earth, back to serve the world so loved by God.

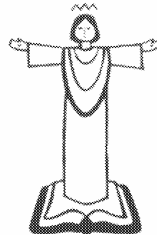


Holy Week

begins with the liturgy on **Palm/Passion** Weekend (April 16-17, 2011) which includes the reading of the passion – the telling of the events of the last week of Christ's life. On **Maundy Thursday** (April 21, 2011) our liturgy includes celebration of the Last Supper, foot-washing and the stripping of the altar. **Good Friday** (April 22, 2011) our liturgy is a service of word and prayer and includes solemn reproaches and veneration of the cross.



On Holy Saturday (April 23, 2011) we celebrate the **Easter Vigil**, a service which tells the story of salvation from the creation story through Jesus' resurrection. The liturgy begins outdoors and ends in the sanctuary with a full-blown Easter celebration. All Holy Week evening services begin at 7:00 PM.



Easter

We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord (April 24, 2011) with four opportunities for worship. The 6:30 AM liturgy takes place in our outdoor chapel in an informal gathering around the reading of the resurrection story and celebration of Holy Communion. (Dress warmly – it's always chilly!) The 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM are identical worship services with lots of music and full liturgy. Many years breakfast is served throughout the morning for fellowship opportunities.



Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost, June 12, 2011) marks the birth of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit to gird up God's people for carrying on the mission that Jesus started in his ministry on earth. Often Pentecost is an overlooked holy day of the Church Year. Not so at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church! We mark the day by wearing red, decorating the chancel with red flowers, and celebrating Confirmation at the 10:30 AM Sunday service. The season of Pentecost continues throughout the summer and fall until December when the new church year begins again.

Children in worship

Nearly every Sunday children are invited to come forward for a special message. All ages are welcome to the table; young children receive a blessing. Children's bulletins are provided for activities related to the day's readings and themes. A special message for children is provided at each Sunday service, sometimes featuring puppets. Once a year the children and youth take total leadership at Sunday services, usually on Mother's Day. In addition there are regular opportunities for children in worship through VIPs (see page 11), the children's choir, and an occasional dramatic presentation.

A nursery staffed with volunteers and a paid attendant is provided on Sundays during Sunday School and the late service. Parents receive a pager in case they are needed in the nursery.



Contemporary Worship

We strive to worship in a way that opens us up to hear God's voice, draws us to one another, and points us outward to all the people in the world. At CRLC we strive to plan worship services that speak about and to the whole people of God, rather than one segment or age-group. We work hard to plan worship that includes music of all ages and styles and from a variety of places in the world in every service. We use visual aids (words, images, objects, film clips, puppets, projection etc.) often in children's messages, and sometimes in sermons, too as ways to enhance the point of the proclaimed Word. Worship that happens here and now is always contemporary!

Ruah! is planned about 8-9 times a year on the 3rd weekend of the month to help us worship in an "emergent" style, one that entices us to interact with each other, experience something tangible as a way of understanding an intangible concept, etc.

Worship on Saturday evening at 5 PM is a more intentional attempt to plan worship with less formality and utilizing more music written in the last few decades. It follows the liturgical order of service and includes the rites and ceremonies of the church.

We present a stream-lined easy-to-follow bulletin and we strive to be welcoming to visitors.



First Communion

Children receive communion for the first time when they express an interest and, after conversation with their families and the pastors, they make a decision. Many children wait until they have received instruction in a class and retreat setting in the fifth grade; however some younger children have elected to receive communion after private instruction with their parents. Some elect to receive communion for the first time on Palm/Passion weekend or on Maundy Thursday; others choose a random date.



Outdoor Worship

Do you know that CRLC has an outdoor chapel available for outdoor worship and private meditation? It is accessible via the side porch on the north side of the building, or through the rear door on the lower level. The elevator makes the outdoor chapel wheelchair accessible, too.

During July and August we worship outdoors on the first Sundays at the 9:30 AM service. In June we worship outdoors in the Metroparks at the Harriet Keeler pavilion followed by breakfast, usually on Father's Day.

Worship VIPs

Lay involvement is valued in all ministries at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church and in worship leadership too. Communion assistants, readers, ushers, acolytes, and the choir members are all ways to serve as a leader in worship. If you prefer to serve "behind the scenes", there is also need for nursery volunteers, people to care for the altar and communion, to maintain the pew rack materials, to decorate the sanctuary for festivals, and to oversee the weekly altar flowers. Occasionally there is also a call for actors for liturgical drama, or for artists to design and make liturgical artwork or banners. Below are the coordinators for each area of volunteers:

Altar Care	Gretchen Grossenbaugh	440-838-0660
Acolytes		
Lay Readers/Communion Asst	Don Laubacher	440-526-7888
Nursery	Jennifer Eisenmann	216-642-8489
Ushers	Scott Witzke	440-237-0837
Weekly Flowers	Maureen Michal	440-526-2975
Worship Team Coordinator	Sandy Weiss	440-526-4847
Season Flowers/Decorations	Linda Shima	216-524-5665

A Warm Welcome to All

Worship Hours

Saturdays 5:00 PM

Sundays 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Summer Sunday Hours 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

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