

**CHRIST OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

37 Warner Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07305

***The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn, Pastor***

Church: 201-433-1836 Pastor: 201-433-2889

Church email: [contact.redeemerlutheranjc@gmail.com](mailto:contact.redeemerlutheranjc@gmail.com)

Pastor's email: [pastor@christouredeemer.net](mailto:pastor@christouredeemer.net)

**Pastor's Office Hours:**

Tuesdays: 1:00 - 5:30

Wednesdays: 1:00 - 7:30

Thursdays: 1:00 - 8:30

Fridays: 9:00 - 2:00

Saturdays: As needed

Sundays: 7:30 - 11:30

Worship Service – 9:30 AM Sundays (In-person & Online)

Zoom Meeting ID: 881 4746 6449; Password: 348873

Phone: 1-646-558-8656

**April 28, 2024**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**WELCOME VISITORS!**

We are delighted that you are worshipping today at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. May your experience with God here be a blessing!

ACCESS FOR ALL: While we stand often during the service, please assume a posture of reverence which you are able or comfortable. An accessible restroom is located in the Parish Hall through the kitchen. If you'd like Communion brought to your seat, our Pastor will gladly assist you. Young worshippers may visit our COR-KIDS Playspace in the rear of the sanctuary. Activity bulletins are available for children.

***How do I find worship music?***

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the red book in your pew)

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship (the green book in your pew)

AAH - African American Heritage (the beige book in your pew)

Find us online at:

**Website:** <https://www.christouredeemerjc.org>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ChristOurRedeemerJerseyCity>

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/cor.jc](http://www.instagram.com/cor.jc)

Have questions? Interested in baptism or membership? Please speak with our ***Pastor Kimberly Vaughn*** after service Or, call 201.433.1836.

P-Pastor    C-Congregation

Prelude

Welcome

**GATHERING**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**Gathering Hymn:**

Take Me To the Water (AAH 675)

### **Apostolic Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Kyrie**

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **Hymn of Praise**

Christ is Arisen, Alleluia! (ELW 364)

**C: Christ is arisen, alleluia! Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia! For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, even from death dispelling its gloom. Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy; Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy. Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!**

### **Salutation**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Front page of the *Celebrate* Insert

P: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## WORD

### Lessons in *Celebrate* Insert

First Reading	Acts 8:26-40
Psalmody	Psalms 22:25-31
Second Reading	1 John 4:7-21
Gospel	John 15:1-8

### First Reading:

**Acts 8:26-40**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

<sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the

water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:**

**Psalm 22:25-31**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)*

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the <sup>l</sup> great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>l</sup> fear the Lord.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat <sup>l</sup> and be satisfied,**  
**Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts <sup>l</sup> live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>l</sup> to the Lord;  
all the families of nations shall bow <sup>l</sup> before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs <sup>l</sup> to the Lord,**  
**who rules o- <sup>l</sup> ver the nations. R**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>l</sup> down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- <sup>l</sup> fore the  
Lord.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall <sup>l</sup> serve the Lord,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to genera- <sup>l</sup> tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people <sup>l</sup> yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The <sup>l</sup> Lord has acted!" R

**Second Reading:**

**1 John 4:7-21**

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved

God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(In honor of God's Good News to us in Jesus, we stand or assume a posture of reverence to receive the reading of the Gospel.)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (ELW 172)

**C: Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (2x)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel:**

**John 15:1-8**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**Children’s Time**

The Rev. Kimberly A. Vaughn

*(Children are welcome to come forward for a special message.)*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Kimberly A. Vaughn

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**Hymn of the Day**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (AAH 463)

**The Nicene Creed**

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he**

ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Back page of the *Celebrate* Insert

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

P: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters (*local bodies of water may be named*). Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes



or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **Greeting of Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*(We share a sign of Christ's peace—a wave, handshake, smile, hug—however you are comfortable!)*

*Please be seated.*

### **Offering & Offertory Music**

*(In response to hearing God's Word, we respond with joy in our offering.)*

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all, unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

### **Offertory Prayer**

P: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught...

**C: 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**

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

*Please be seated.*

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**Communion Hymn:** Have You Got Good Religion? (AAH 678)

**Distribution of Communion**

*(Please bring the communion back to your seat to eat and drink. Someone will collect the cups afterwards.)*

*Please stand as able.*

**Post-Communion Cantic:** God is So Good

*GOD IS SO GOOD, GOD IS SO GOOD, GOD IS SO GOOD, HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.  
HE CARES FOR ME, HE CARES FOR ME, HE CARES FOR ME, HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.  
HE'S ALL I NEED, HE'S ALL I NEED, HE'S ALL I NEED HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.*

P: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C: Amen**

*Please be seated.*

**Announcements**

*(Please see the last page.)*

**SENDING**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**Benediction**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again (AAH 634)

**Closing Anthem**

Jesus Remember Me

**Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Please Remember Our Sick and Shut-Ins:**

Deborah Frazier	Jersey City, NJ	201-333-0707
James Gumbs	Jersey City, NJ	646-940-3464
Joe Heard, Sr.	Linden, NJ	201-725-5231
Jonathan Strong Sr.	Jersey City, NJ	551-580-5759
Juanita Larkins	North Plainfield, NJ	201-798-3460
Kate Fauder	Jersey City, NJ	201-333-5752
Kathy Connally	Jersey City, NJ	201-451-9057
Louise Givens	Jersey City, NJ	201-432-1486
Maggie Graves	Jersey City, NJ	201-434-2251
Rabone Goolserran	Jersey City, NJ	201-432-8215
Sylvia Bishran	Jersey City, NJ	201-492-8108
Vernon Goolserran	Jersey City, NJ	201-432-8215
Yvonne Grant	Jersey City, NJ	973-444-2266
Sylvena Davis	Jersey City, NJ	201-279-2002
Anna Yvonne Brooks	Jersey City, NJ	201-238-3034

**Worship Participants**

Ministers	The People of Christ Our Redeemer
Pastor	Reverend Kimberly Vaughn
Pianist	Kim Norton
Lector:	Joan Narain
Counters:	Corey Brooks and Joan Narain
Usher:	Corey Brooks and TBD

*Thank you to those who assisted in today's worship.*

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB176168, 2024 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

## Our Parish Calendar

### April Birthdays:

Zuri Hart	4 <sup>th</sup>
Cornelia Hazel	14 <sup>th</sup>
Jalen Braithwaite	19 <sup>th</sup>
Annastacia Braithwaite	20 <sup>th</sup>
Kim Norton	27 <sup>th</sup>

### April Baptism Anniversaries:

#### Worship Assistants for 5/5/2024

Lector:	TBD
Counters:	Jameka Carter and TBD
Usher:	Joy Griggs and Joan Narain

#### Worship Assistants for 5/12/2024

Lector:	Joy Griggs
Counters:	Joan Narain and TBD
Usher:	Joy Griggs and Joan Narain

#### Worship Assistants for 5/19/2024

Lector:	Corey Brooks
Counters:	Jameka Carter and Wanda Fluellen
Usher:	Joy Griggs and Joan Narain

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

### Congregational:

- SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: The Emma & Anna Eckhardt Scholarship application is now open for college students. Please consider applying.
- BIBLE STUDY: Join us Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. for conversation on “Daily Discipleship”. Bible study is offered both in-person and on Zoom.
- HOLY BAPTISM/FIRST COMMUNION: If you have questions about receiving the Sacraments of Holy Baptism or First Communion, please see Pastor Kimberly.
- LOOSE CHANGE: Got any spare change? Drop it in the jar after worship—all monies go towards the building fund.

- Please see page 9 for the list of upcoming worship assistants. We are in need of worship assistants for upcoming months.

**NJ Synod and Community:**

- The 2024 New Jersey Synod Assembly will take place on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton Township. Along with Pastor Kimberly, our voting members are Ed Price, Desiree Persaud and Janasia Carter. Please keep them in your prayers.

***CHRIST IS RISEN!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!  
ALLELUIA!***

***126<sup>th</sup> YEAR OF WITNESS AND SERVICE TO CHRIST  
THROUGH GOD'S WORD,  
THE LIGHT AND THE TRUTH,  
WE INVITE ALL TO GROW IN CHRIST***

*† Connected to Christ † Connected to Each Other † Connected to Community*