

The Fifth Sunday of Easter


Spiritual Communion

Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 9 AM

Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

office@theredeemer.ca • Tel: (416) 922 4948 • www.theredeemer.ca



*way
truth
life*



OUR VISION

Becoming the Body of Christ at the corner of Bloor & Avenue Road and beyond

Guided by commitment to our shared values, we seek to become the body of Christ, nurturing a lively faith, a persistent hope, and an ever-expanding love for God's world.

- We seek to – open our doors and hearts, embracing all who seek a sacred space. We offer worship in many forms, touching the hearts of those yearning for spiritual connection, in-person or online.
- We seek to – listen deeply, hearing the stories of Jesus and of one another with open minds and hearts. Through faithful questioning, reflection, and shared learning, we grow together in wisdom and grace.
- We seek to – serve with generous hospitality, gathering at the table with our physical and spiritual hunger. We walk alongside one another with compassion in the seasons and conditions of life, sharing our needs and thanks.
- We seek to – embody Jesus' teachings that all people are God's children, worthy of love, and that all of creation is interconnected. Where structures or attitudes threaten or diminish, we advocate for justice, peace, equity and ecological responsibility.
- We seek to – reach out in-person and virtually to the world around us. We dare to love in word and action so that others see something of God in their midst.

OUR VALUES

- Compassion:** meeting every soul with tenderness and dignity
- Openness:** welcoming questions, embracing differences, and following the movement of the Spirit
- Respect:** honouring each person's unique story and gifts, and the inherent worth of all Creation
- Inclusion:** making room for all to enter, find a place, and participate fully
- Stewardship:** nurturing respect for our resources and partnerships for long-term vitality



Christ has no body now but ours, no hands, no feet on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good, Ours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Teresa of Avila (Adapted)

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

Who We Are

We are followers of Jesus: children, young adults, families, and seniors who come from a variety of backgrounds. We are long-time members and newcomers; people of deep faith and those still searching; people shaped by many traditions—and sometimes seeking a deeper sense of faith and community. We are not limited by ability, age, economic status, ethnicity, gender identity, personal history or sexual orientation.

Where We Stand

Dwelling on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississauga of the Credit First Nation, Church of the Redeemer stands at the crossroads, physical and virtual—of neighbourhoods and nations, of government, education, arts, culture, and commerce—in the heart of Toronto.

From this place we seek to live into our identity as the body of Christ: living our faith, offering hope, and sharing love for God's world.

If you would like to stay up to date with our news and events, please feel free to subscribe to our eNewsletter by going to <https://theredeemer.ca/post-17524>.

theredeemer.ca

[instagram.com/TheRedeemerTO](https://www.instagram.com/TheRedeemerTO)

[facebook.com/TheRedeemerTO](https://www.facebook.com/TheRedeemerTO)

President: Liska Stefko

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement



Your support of the ministries of the Church of the Redeemer allows us to be witnesses to God's love on our corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road. Donations can be made through the QR code. Thank you for your gift and for joining in worship today.

Opening Hymn: #486 (Common Praise) “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Led by Redeemer Music Team



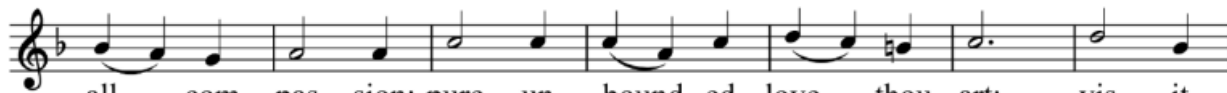
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven to
2. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er; let us all thy
3. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
grace re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion



all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art
nev - er more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
per - fect - ly re - stored in thee, changed from glo - ry



all com - pas - sion; pure un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we



us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: BLAENWERN. William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937) ©. Reprinted by permission of Mr. G.A. Gabe.

The Easter Greeting

Liska Stefko

Priest: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Priest: May his grace and peace be with you.

All: **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

The Collect of the Day

Liska Stefko

Priest: Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
Give us grace to love one another
and walk in the way of his commandments,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Murray Bryant

Reader: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

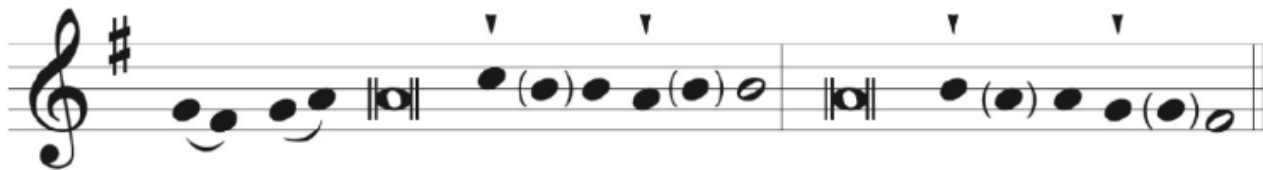
Acts 7.55-60

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16

Led by Redeemer Music Team



IN YÖU, O God, have I taken refuge; *
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

**Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.**

**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.**

**Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
who are the God of truth.**

**My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

**Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.**

Second Reading:

Murray Bryant

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." This honor, then, is for you who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

1 Peter 2.2-10

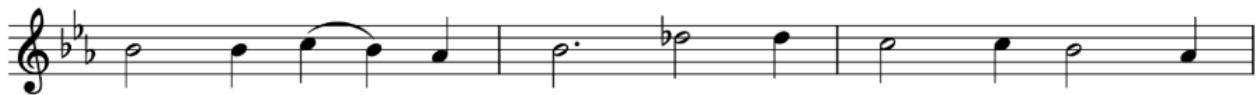
All: Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence is observed

Sequence Hymn: #577 (Gather) "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life" *All rise and sing*



1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a
2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a
3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a



way as gives us breath; Such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; Such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; Such a love as none can



strife; Such a life as kill - - eth death.
length; Such a strength as makes his guest.
part; Such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert (1593-1632). Tune: THE CALL; Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). © Stainer and Bell Publications.

The Gospel

Liska Stefko

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?"

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

John 14.1-14

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily: Anne Evers

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Catherine Emerson

Leader: God our creator, you have woven your nature into the very fabric of the universe. Open our eyes to your wonders and draw us ever nearer to you in worship and awe.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Keep us close Mighty Father.

All: **Save us in your unfailing love.**

Leader: God of the oppressed, we pray for all those who suffer injustice at the hands of cruel and indifferent rulers, especially for the innocent victims of war. Give them strength and patience, and hasten the day when the kingdoms of this world will own the perfect law of love, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Keep us close Mighty Father.

All: **Save us in your unfailing love.**

Leader: God of our salvation, save us from envy, and teach us to be content with what is enough. Let our hearts burn with love for the whole of creation, for others, for ourselves and for you.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Keep us close Mighty Father.

All: **Save us in your unfailing love.**

Leader: Spirit of God who guides, leads, and empowers us. Walk with us through pain, sickness, anxiety, and loss. Comfort and restore us by your healing hand, and use us to bring your kingdom here on earth.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Keep us close Mighty Father.

All: **Save us in your unfailing love.**

Leader: O God, keep us in the spirit of amazement and gratitude. Keep us believing when we cannot see; keep us hoping while we wait; keep us looking for your presence, and when we breathe our last, keep us safe in your warm embrace.

All: **Amen.**

The Peace

Liska Stefko

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

All: **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: #442 (Common Praise) “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here”

Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. Great God, your love has called us here as we, by love, for
2. We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
3. Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
4. Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
5. Great God, in Christ you set us free, your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear, though
cho - sen wrong; half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains; by
as your own not through some mer - it, right, or claim, but
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed, and
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty to



marred, dis - hon - oured, dis - o - beyed. We come with all our
so - cial for - ces swept a - long, by powers and sys - tems
by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
turn from guilt and dull de - spair and of - fer all that



heart and mind, your call to hear, your love to find.
close con - fined; yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

The Lord's Prayer

Liska Stefko

Priest: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

All: **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.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

Liska Stefko

Priest: Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be,
to receive Christ, in communion with the saints,
and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now.

*For those of us participating at home, it is a strange experience to be invited to Communion
– not through the physical bread and wine we can touch and taste –
but a Spiritual Communion with the God who comes to meet us wherever we are.*

*There are no special words or prayers for this, all the Church has ever thought necessary is genuine true
desire, lively faith, and genuine love. Come honestly before God the way you know how.
You may wish to pray quietly this prayer to help you:*

One: Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock.
You wait for me and only I can let you in.
I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence.
Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood,
that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

The Doxology

Liska Stefko

Priest: Glory to God,

All: **whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.**

Concluding Hymn: #562 (Gather) “Halleluya! We Sing Your Praises”

Led by Redeemer Music Team

Refrain

Hal - le - lu - ya! We sing your prais - es, all our
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - ya! We sing your
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.
1. Christ the Lord to us said: I am
2. Now he sends us all out, strong in
wine, I am bread, I am wine, I am
faith, free of doubt, strong in faith, free of
bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
doubt, to pro - claim the joy - ful Gos - pel.

Text and tune: South African. © 1984, Utryck, Walton Music Corporation, agent.

Dismissal

Liska Stefko

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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WORSHIP WITH US

EASTERTIDE

Sunday May 3 (Fifth Sunday after Easter)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Wednesday April 29

12:00 PM – Mid-week Eucharist (in the Church)

Sunday May 10 (Sixth Sunday after Easter)

9:00 AM – Spiritual Communion (on Zoom only)

9:00 AM – Coffee Church (in the Church)

10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

4:00 PM – Be Still (Choral Edition) (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER LEADERSHIP

Pastoral Staff

Incumbent: Steven Mackison
Associate Priest: Liska Stefko
Children, Youth & Family Minister: Lor Maroney
Honorary Assistants: Jim Boyles, Susan Haig, Ann Jervis, Renata Kok, Paul MacLean, Margaret Rodrigues, Paul G. Walker, Katy Waugh, Andrew Wesley
Theological Intern: Bianca Mathews

Program Staff

Director of Music: Dan Norman
Assistant Director of Music: Mike Daley
Musician-in-Residence: Jill Daley

Common Table Staff & Leads

Director: Tom More
Outreach Worker: Jim Willis
Volunteer & Kitchen Coordinator: Beverley Galandzy
Kitchen Coordinator: Natalie Buyniak
Counsellors: Jane Brushey-Martin, Francis Martin

Ministry Support

Administrative Assistant: Brianna Davies
Bookkeeper & IT Support: Nasir Qamar
Facilities Manager: Craig Martin
Communications: Ann Cope
AV & Sound Tech: Morgan
Duty Custodian: Lloyd Simangan

Members of Diocesan Synod

Wesley Acheampong, Chris Ambidge, Peter Bennett, Lyn Sibley, Karen Visser, Richard Van Delft (alternate)

If you spot any errors or omissions, or to find out more about our ministry areas, please contact us: office@theredeemer.ca

Board of Management

Chair: Carol Scovil
Vice-Chair: Laura Boast
Advisory Board Chair: Henry Krol
Property: Susan Graham Walker
Stewardship: Ron Waldie
Finance: James Newman
HR: Wesley Acheampong
At Large: Jonathan Batty, Sheila Crummey

Advisory Board

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Vice-Chair: Susanne Hunter
Board of Management Chair: Carol Scovil
Creation Matters: Grant Jahnke, Andrew Scorer
ISWG: Stephen Allen
Redeemer Explorers: David Townsend, Deb Deacon
At Large: Christina Chang, Mark Ebden, Louise Greig, Deb Hinton, Scott MacLeod, Dawn Lee, Alanna Zоргdrager, Salome Pinto

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Archives: Nancy Luno
Catechesis: Georgi Georgievski
Creation Matters: Grant Jahnke, Andrew Scorer
Hospitality: Tony Crosbie
Human Resources: Tim Hadwen
Indigenous Solidarity Working Group: Stephen Allen
Liturgy Animator: Ann Cope
Martha League: Richard Van Delft
Meditation Group: Lilian Junkin
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