REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

https://www.rpcerie.org

Sunday Morning Worship

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

In-Gathering Sunday

November 15, 2026

Worship Theme: *"These two similitudes provide a good introduction to the teaching style of Jesus. They are parables of the King and invitations to the Kingdom. In order to find your way, the One who knows the way and is the Way must be revered as the One and Only."*

** The Congregation should please stand, if you are able to do so*

Welcome, Announcements, and Introduction to Worship ..... Thomas Brooks

Prelude: *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven* ..... *arr. Smith*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who, like me, his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
Praise the everlasting King.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* ..... Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

(...continued over...)

---------*(please tear off here)*----------

Connection/Request for Prayer

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I'd like: ☐ Call from the pastor ☐ Prayer for:

_____

_____

_____

(...continued on other side...)

Congregation: **How awesome is the Lord most high, the great King over all the earth!**

Liturgist: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.

Congregation: **For God is the king of all the earth; sing to him a Psalm of praise.** *—Psalm 47:1-2, 6-7*

***Hymn No. 2:** *O Worship the King*..... *Lyons*

(Verses 1, 2, 4, and 5)

First Old Testament Reading:

Exodus 20:1-11..... Lisa Gordon

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

A Moment for Children .....Shirley Wilson

Note: The children (0 through 4 years) may go to the nursery classroom.

Hymn of Reflection:

Jesus! What a Friend of Sinners!..... *Chapman*

Jesus, what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He my Savior, makes me whole.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

(...continued over...)

---------*(please tear off here)*----------

(...continued from other side...)

Prayers of Confession..... Thomas Brooks

We will begin by praying a unison prayer of corporate confession.
Then, we will join in silently, confessing our personal sins.

O eternal God and merciful Father, we humble ourselves before Your great majesty, against which we have frequently and grievously sinned. We acknowledge that we deserve nothing less than eternal death, that we are unclean before You and are children of wrath. We continually transgress Your commandments, failing to do what You have commanded, and doing that which You have expressly forbidden.

We acknowledge our waywardness, and are heartily sorry for all our sins. We are not worthy to be called Your children, nor to lift up our eyes heavenward to You in prayer.

Nevertheless, O Lord God and gracious Father, we know that Your mercy toward those who turn to You is infinite; and so we take courage to call upon You, trusting in our Mediator Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Please forgive all our sins for Christ's sake. Cover us with His innocence and righteousness, for the glory of Your name. Please deliver our understanding from all blindness and our hearts from all willfulness and rebellion. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

—adapted from the CRC Book of Praise

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(unison)*..... Thomas Brooks

He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *—Colossian 1:13-14*

Thanks Be to God!

***Response Hymn:** *Gloria Patri*.....*GREATOREX*

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
World without end, Amen, Amen!

(...continued over...)

***Passing of the Peace**..... Thomas Brooks

Note: The Congregation will please turn to each other and speak these words of common greeting: "May the peace of Christ be with you." And the reply: "And, also with you."

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and The Lord's Prayer..... Amy Stearns

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Second Old Testament Reading:

Ezekiel 47:1-12 ..... Lisa Gordon

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "Cherish the King".....Rev. Donald D. Opitz, PhD

Sermon Text: Matthew 13:44-46

Offering: *We Give Thee But Thine Own*..... *Improvised*

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
And gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first-fruits give.

***Offertory Hymn:** *Doxology*..... *Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Offertory Prayer**..... Thomas Brooks

Generous Heavenly Father, we thank You for the provisions You have faithfully given to us and for giving us all that we need. Please accept these offerings as a means of bringing You glory and praise, in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

(...continued over...)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

Invitation to the Lord's Table..... Rev. Opitz

Communion Opening Prayer
and Words of Institution ..... Rev. Opitz

Distribution of the Bread: *The body of Christ, broken for you.*

(Please note that for Communion we use both
gluten-free and dairy-free bread or crackers.)

As you pass the bread/crackers, please say to the next person:
"The body of Christ, broken for you."

Upon receipt of the bread, please hold it until all have been served,
so that we can partake of the bread together, as a sign of our oneness
in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

Distribution of the Cup: *The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

(Please note that for Communion the juice
we use is non-alcoholic grape juice.)

As you pass the cup, please say to the next person:
"The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Upon receipt of the cup, please hold it until all have been served,
so that we can partake of the cup together, as a sign of our oneness
in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

Please use the baskets we have provided in alternate
rows for disposal of the used communion cups

Prayer following Communion ..... Rev. Opitz

***Hymn No. 184:**
The King of Love My Shepherd Is .....*Dominus Regit Me*

***Benediction** ..... Rev. Opitz

Postlude: *Lead On, O King Eternal* .....*arr. Larson*

(...continued over...)

After the Worship Service

We invite you to join us for a time of fellowship with coffee and cookies after the Worship Service in the rear of the sanctuary.

If you wish to have a time of personal prayer, please speak to one of our Ruling Elders—Zachary Harvey, Robert LeSuer, or Amy Stearns.

Monthly Prayer Focus

On October 18th, Pastor Benj announced that an agreement-in-principal had been reached on the sale of Weis Library United Methodist Church to West Erie PCA. When that purchase closes, Redeemer can begin negotiations to purchase the West Erie property at 621 West Second Street. As you pray during November, please ask God:

- To continue to open doors to move the property closing along and facilitate Redeemer's purchase of the West Second Street property.
- To reveal how we can bring glory to His name through Redeemer's purchase and use of this property.
- What special purpose does He have in mind by leading Redeemer to the West Second Street property?

Pastor: .....Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD
pastor@rpcerie.org/724-221-2595
Minister of Music and Worship: ..... Thomas Brooks
Accompanist: .....Shirley Wilson
Ruling Elders: .....Robert LeSuer, Amy Stearns, Zachary Harvey

Ways to Give to Redeemer:

- *Offering Plate*
- *Mail:* RPC Treasurer, c/o 115 W Lakeview Blvd., Erie, PA 16508
- *Online:* https://www.rpcerie.org/give

To contact the church: info@rpcerie.org

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