

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
13564 St. Andrews Drive  
Seal Beach, CA 90740  
(562) 598-8697**

**e-mail: redeemer\_lutheran@verizon.net  
website: [www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com](http://www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com)**



***Holy Communion Service  
Baptism of Our Lord Sunday  
January 12, 2025***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHOIR INTROIT

## OPENING HYMN

[Blue Book] WOV # 690

*“Shall We Gather at the River”*

[Printed on Page 13]

## GREETING

P Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, be upon us all.

C **And also with you.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C **Merciful God, you offer your blessings and compassion upon the world. Forgive us when we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. When we ignore the needs of our neighbors; resist your call to oppose injustice; give in to scarcity and fear; or assume the worst about one another, cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness and grace. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

**P** God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”  
In † Christ, we are forgiven. In the Spirit, we are made free.  
Refreshed by the baptismal waters of mercy, let us live anew as beloved children of God.

**C** Amen.

### **Prayer of the Day**

**C** Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called the children of God; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **Introduction**

*Today’s festival rejoices in God’s blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God’s children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we are baptized by water, fire, and the Holy Spirit. On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God’s Beloved, Jesus, in the Word and in the Holy Meal.*

### **The First Lesson is from Isaiah, chapter 43 verses 1-7**

*Near the end of Israel’s exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,  
    he who created you, O Jacob,  
    he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
    I have called you by name; you are mine.  
<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,  
    and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
    and the flame shall not consume you.  
<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,  
    the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
    Cush and Seba in exchange for you.  
<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight  
    and honored and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
    nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
    I will bring your offspring from the east,  
    and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, “Give them up,”  
    and to the south, “Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
    and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
    whom I created for my glory,  
    whom I formed and made.”

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm: Psalm 29**

*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- <sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory  
thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup> the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- <sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- <sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the  
forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- <sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
- <sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## **The Second Lesson is from Acts chapter 8 verses 14-17**

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

*(Congregation stands and sings “Thy Word” before the Gospel.)*

### **The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 3 verses 15-17, 21-22**

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God’s beloved Son.*

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

<sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a

voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Murray Finck

*“Baptism... by Water, by Fire, by the Spirit.”*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“Oh, Love, How Deep”*

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*the word “*catholic*” in the creed means “*universal*.” It is the original word used as this profession of faith was adopted by the early Christian Church.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**L ... God of grace,**

**C Hear our prayer.**

**OFFERTORY**

*“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

## **Offering Prayer**

**P** God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight, and you have blessed us with bounty. Receive these gifts from your gracious abundance, and help us to join with the choruses of creation to tell of your love. We thank you for this Holy Table as you offer us your greatest gift of grace.

**C** **Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

### **Invitation to Communion**

**P** Receive the gift of Jesus. The table is ready and all are welcome  
*Holy Communion Distribution (The Congregation is invited by the ushers to come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar, Holy Communion will be brought to you in the pew. We believe Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine/juice. Those who are baptized and share that belief are always welcome at this table. Please speak to the Pastor if you have any questions. The inside circle of glasses contains white grape juice.)*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**C** Merciful God, we thank you for Christ Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by his goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**



## **Blessing**

**P** May the God of love, life, and light, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**C** **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**WOV [Blue Book] # 721**

***“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”***

[Printed on Page 14]

## **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace. May the Word of God dwells in you richly.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

**played by organist**

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**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

**Organist and Choir Director:** Sharon Heck

**Flowers are given by:** *No Requests.*

## **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

<b><i>Presider:</i></b>	The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus
<b><i>Organist:</i></b>	Sharon Heck
<b><i>Holy Communion Assistant:</i></b>	Sylvia Makus
<b><i>Acolyte</i></b>	Sylvia Makus
<b><i>Reader:</i></b>	Carol Costello
<b><i>Prayer Leader:</i></b>	Nancy Anderson
<b><i>Financial Team:</i></b>	Sylvia Makus and Doris Weinert

## **THIS WEEK**

<b>Wednesday:</b>	12:00 p.m. Bible Study
	1:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

## **Redeemer Finance: January Offering through January 5**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,250.00
Offering	<u>\$2,527.00</u>
<b>Needed for Budget</b>	<b>\$5,723.00</b>

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Wendy Alfageme, Nancy Anderson, Susan Avila, Carol Costello, Sandy Langdale, Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Linda Peters Kay Pushman, and Michael Vanvales, Doris Weinert

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Barry, Jean, Kathy, Wendy, Beverly, Nancy, Evelyn, Shirlene, Carol, Mickey, Evelyn, Gloria, Christa, Alice, Barbara, Cedric, Lucy, Karen, Kelly, Raymond, Dick, Marilyn, Brian, Carl, Jessica, Carol, Rose, Sandra, Elaine, Carmen, Barbara, Betty, Nancy, Phyllis, Sylvia, Flo, Eileen, Erich, Leslie, Linda, Ronnie, Kay, Violet, Linda, Ron, Collette, Lisa, Patty, Barbara, Joan, Dee, Susan, Kathy, Juanita, Clarence, Debbie, Joan, Doris, Linda, Bruce, Alma, Martha, Marianne, Robert, Laura, Jim, Loretta, Ray, Patty, Delrie, Bill, Betty, Lorna, M. Teresa, Joan, Mike, Frankie, Donna, Ernie, Eileen, Darleen, Sharon, Danuta, Lynne, Ethan, Kurt, Brinly, McCall, Kathy, Nayleen, Nicole, Donald, Maria, Andy, Owen, Tom, Anastasia, Claire, Fran, Chris, Kyle, Michele, Wes, Sam, Kolt, Brigid, Joanna, Dale, Karla, Sands, Gloria, Tom, Rosalia, Elaine, Rachel, Mike, Jesus, Richard, Kelsey, Ginny, Christina, Margaret, Steven, Dian EK Song, Vicky, and Donna. Please contact the church to add people to the prayer list.

*Please pray for our Bishop David Nagler, (ELCA) and Bishop John Taylor (ECUSA), the victims of the Ukrainian/Russian, Israel/Hamas conflicts, the civil strife in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and victims and families of all violence and natural disasters.*

*Gracious God, none who trust in your Son can be separated from your love. Give to those who live alone peace and contentment in their solitude, hope and fulfillment in their love of you, and joy and companionship in their relations with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Announcements

- † Welcome to everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors.
- † Please take a moment and fill out the attendance slip found in the rack in the pews. Please place it in the offertory plate. Visitors, especially, are invited to fill out a card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!
- † Everyone is invited downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for coffee, treats, and fellowship (we have tea, too!). You are encouraged to continue to wear your name tags at fellowship so we can greet one another by name. The basket will be available downstairs so your name tag can be collected and ready to wear next week.
- † The Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, January 15 at noon in the Fellowship Hall when we will be finishing with our study of the Ten Commandments.
- † Reminder: the first Church Council Meeting for 2025 is Wednesday, January 15 at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.
- † Forms for the Memorial Cross Wall are in the Narthex if you wish to honor a friend or family member in this way.
- † Please let us know if you are having medical issues, so we can offer pastoral care and our prayers during your difficult times. Speak to a member of the Church Council or call the office number: (562) 598-8697.
- † The elevator is working. Please see Kay Pushman, Wendy Alfageme, or Sylvia Makus to use the elevator, even if you have used it before.
- † Call on Tuesdays, after 5:00 pm, for the Leisure World Bus if you are having issues with it in regard to getting to Church on Sundays. (562) 431-6586 extension 2379.

- † If you are having a little problem with hearing on Sundays, please remember that there are speakers in the ceiling light fixtures so sitting closer to one of those may help. We are looking into improving the sound system for the Church Sanctuary.
- † The NEW 2025 Flower Chart is available for sign-ups in the entryway. One bouquet is \$15.00. Both are \$30.00. Please include any dedication for your flower request when signing up or include a note beforehand if there is a dedication. If you take the flowers in the plastic holders, please return the holders. We try to reuse them and are currently out of them.
- † Printed copies of our current newsletter are available in the entryway. It is online on our website at:  
[www.redeemersealbeach.com](http://www.redeemersealbeach.com). It is sent out via email, if we have your email address. If you are not receiving the newsletter by email, or the midweek communiqué from the pastor, please put your email address on the attendance sheet in the pew pocket and put it in the collection plate, so we can add you or correct the address we have.