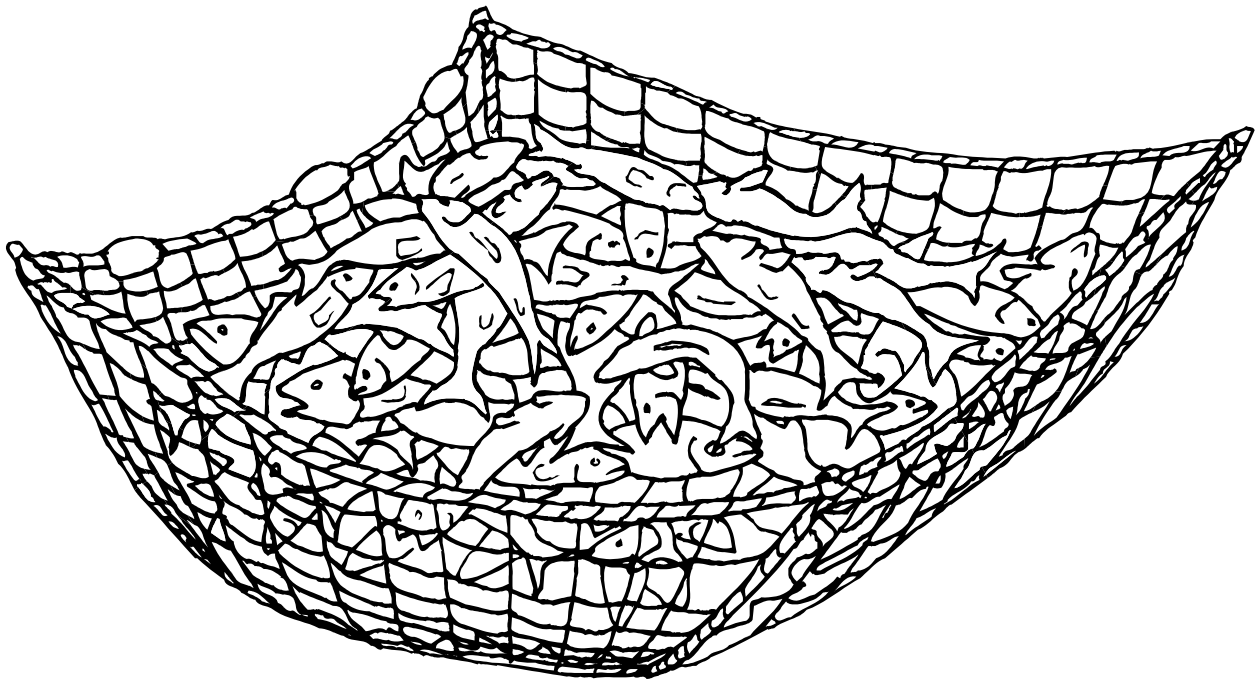


**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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(562) 598-8697**

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***Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 494

“Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult”

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C **God, our rock and refuge, we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. We pray that you remember your covenant, renew your creation, and restore us, your people, that we may proclaim your Good News to all. Amen.**

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the kingdom of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. We are God’s beloved.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Almighty God, by grace alone you call us, accept us in your service and send us forth in your name. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

The First Lesson is from Jonah chapter 3 verses 1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12

God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath;
those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.

The Second Lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 7 verses 29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

1 Time Before the Gospel

1 Time after the Gospel

The Gospel Lesson is from Mark chapter 1 verses 14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James, son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Bishop Murray Finck

"Sizo Bamblela"

"Never Give Up"

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Rise, Shine, You People"

APOSTLES' CREED

L 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L ... God of grace,
C receive our prayer.

OFFERTORY

“I Love to Tell the Story”

OFFERING PRAYER

P Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW [Green Book] Page 71

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.
Communion Distribution (The Congregation is invited to come forward by the ushers to receive Communion. If you are unable to come to the altar, Communion will be brought to you in the pew. All baptized and believing Christians are invited to the table. Anyone with any questions can speak to the Pastor. The inside circle of glasses contains grape juice.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

C Giver of every gift, **Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 503

"O Jesus I Have Promised"

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

played by organist

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck

Organist: Sharon Heck

Flowers are given by: *No Requests.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

President: Bishop Murray Finck
Communion Assistant Carmen Leslie
Reader / Prayer Leader: Carol Costello
Financial Team: Wendy Alfageme and Sylvia Makus

THIS WEEK

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

Redeemer Finance: January Offering through January 14, 2024

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,307.52
Offering	<u>\$3,613.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	\$3,694.52

CHURCH COUNCIL

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Finance Chair

Members at Large: Wendy Alfageme, Nancy Anderson, Sandy Langdale, Betty Lucero, Phyllis Mackey, Sylvia Makus, Kay Pushman, Michael Vanvales, and Doris Weinert

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jean, Kathy, Wendy, Beverly, Dena, Nancy, Evelyn, Shirlene, Jerry, Dondi, Carol, Mickey, Evelyn, Gloria, Christa, Alice, Barbara, Cedric, Lucy, Karen, Kelly, Raymond, Dick, Marilyn, Brian, Carl, Jessica, Carol, Rose, Ken, Sandra, Elaine, Carmen, Barbara, Betty, Nancy, Phyllis, Sylvia, Gil, Flo, Eileen, Erich, Leslie, Linda, Ronnie, Kay, Violet, Linda, Ron, Collette, Lisa, Patty, Barbara, Joan, Dee, Susan, Anita, Norma, Lathy, Juanita, Clarence, Debbie, Joan, Anne, Doris, Linda, Bruce, Alma, Martha, Marianne, Robert, Laura, Jim, Loretta, Ray, Patty, Delrie, Bill, Betty, Lorna, M. Teresa, Joan, Mike, Frankie, Donna, Ernie, Eileen, Darlene, Sharon, Danota, Lynne, Ethan, Kurt, Brinly, McCall, Kathy, Nayleen, Nicole, Donald, Maria, Andy, Owen, Tom, Anastasia, Claire, Fran, Chris, Kyle, Michele, Bill, Wes, Sam, Kolt, Maeve, Brigid, Joanna, Dale, Karla, Sands, Gloria, Tom, Rosalia, Wendy, and Rhoda.

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 and Israel/Hamas conflicts, 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 everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors. Everyone is invited down to the Fellowship Hall after Service for our Coffee Fellowship.
- ‡ Thank you to Bishop Murray Finck for Presiding for today's Service.
- ‡ We are again trying to plan an acceptance of new members! Bishop Finck has agreed to accept new members for us so please speak to him. We need to plan a date so please pick up a member's form from the entryway and return it as soon as possible.
- ‡ At this time, we are encouraging people to consider wearing a mask again, especially in Church, due to the spike in Covid-19 cases. Initial symptoms are headache and fever. Please consult with your doctor if you are experiencing these or other symptoms. We continue to have masks available in the entryway for your use. We need to join together to keep everyone safe and healthy.
- ‡ Please take a moment and fill out the attendance slip found in the rack in the pews. Please place it in the offertory plate. Thank you!
- ‡ The NEW 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.
- ‡ Printed copies of our current newsletter are available in the entryway. It is online on our website at: www.redeemerasealbeach.com. It is sent out via email, if we have your email address. If you are not receiving it, please let us know so we can confirm your address.