

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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***Holy Communion Service
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2025***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR INTROIT

OPENING HYMN

[Green Book] LBW # 559

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

[Printed on Page 14]

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. We are sorry 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 Blessed Lord God, you have inspired the Holy Scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of life with you that never ends, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

Introduction

God’s glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God’s glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

The First Lesson is from Nehemiah chapter 8 verses 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

¹ All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of

the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 19

The teaching of the Lord revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- ² One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- ³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴ their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,

where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸ The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² Who can detect one's own offenses?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 12 verses 12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

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 4 verses 14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,

to set free those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Murray Finck

“The Inauguration In Nazareth”

CHOIR ANTHEM

“O God Beyond All Praising”

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

“We Are Marching in the Light”

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 sacrifice and grace.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

LBW [Green Book] Page 71

Invitation to Communion

P Receive this gift of Jesus, our Messiah. The table is ready and all are always 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 non-alcoholic 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

ELW # 551

“The Spirit Send Us Forth to Serve”

[Printed on Page 15]

Dismissal

P Go in peace. May the Word of God dwell 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

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

THIS WEEK

TODAY:	January Birthdays Celebrated at Fellowship
Wednesday:	12:00 p.m. Bible Study
Next Sunday:	10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Redeemer Finance: January Offering through January 19

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,250.00
Offering	<u>\$6,347.00</u>
Needed for Budget	\$1,903.00

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Kay Pushman, **Vice President:** Wendy Alfageme,
Secretary: Nancy Anderson, **Treasurer:** Doris Weinert
Members at Large: Susan Avila, Carol Costello, Sandy Langdale,
Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Linda Peters and
Michael Vanvales

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 those affected by the wildfires, fire personnel, and first responders during these devastating wildfires.

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.
- † Thank you to Jerry Engelhardt for playing for us this morning.
- † 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!) where we will celebrate our January Birthdays. Happy Birthday month to: *Wendy Alfageme, Teresa Smith, Dale Diesslin, Cedric Elmer, Mickey Costello, Evelyn Benedix, Carmen Leslie, and Carl Keene*. 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.
- † Please keep in prayer our organist, Sharon Heck, as she gathers with friends and family to say goodbye to her brother and celebrate his life.
- † The Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, January 29 at noon in the Fellowship Hall to finish the watching of **The Ten Commandments**.
- † As the new year begins, we are looking over our Prayer List and are concerned that while we are all in need of prayers, the list has become very long. Please listen carefully to the names read during the Prayers of the People (bolded in the prayer list) and read over the Prayer List in the bulletin. If you have added names, please let us know when we can remove them. The prayer list is meant for additional prayers when someone is going through a special need for more prayer. Examples: surgeries, cancer, heart concerns, falls, broken bones, hospital stays, accidents, hospice, and such immediate conditions in need of extra prayers.
- † If you wish to donate to the people affected by the wildfires, you may make a check to Lutheran Disaster Response and note the funds are

for the L A Wildfires or donate cash in an envelope and put it in the collection plate. Please note on the envelope that it is for Lutheran Disaster Response. You may also donate online at:
<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>

- † 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 for the Leisure World On-Call Bus Service up to three days in advance if you are having issues with it in regard to getting to Church on Sundays. (562) 472-1367 is the dedicated line.
- † 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. 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.