

**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**



***Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 90

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

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 Light, Word of Truth, Breathe and 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 others and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. We pray that you remember your covenant and promise to forgive us, that you renew your creation and restore us, so that we may proclaim your Good News to all. Amen.**

P The voice of the Lord has come to our ears and hearts. God has spoken: the time of grace and mercy 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 daughters and sons forever.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth and love to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

The First Lesson is from Deuteronomy chapter 18 verses 15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

Moses said: ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet

shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 111

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your
covenant.

⁶You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and
equity.

⁹You sent redemption to your people
and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding.
God's praise endures forever.

The Second Lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 8 verses 1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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 21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Bishop Murray Finck

"What and Whose Voices are We Heeding?"

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Thy Word is a Lamp"

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

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

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 us, Christ who claims us, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, + bless us and remain with us always.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 530

"Jesus Shall Reign"

DISMISSAL

P Let us go in peace, heeding God's voice. We are God's beloved.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

played by organist



Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck

Organist: Sharon Heck

Flowers are given by: *Linda Peters in Memory of My Husband.*

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

Tuesday: Annual Reports **MUST** be in the Office

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

Redeemer Finance: January Offering through January 21, 2024

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,307.52
Offering	<u>\$4,681.25</u>
Needed to meet expenses	\$2,626.27

CHURCH COUNCIL

President Kay Pushman, **Vice-President** Wendy Alfageme, **Secretary** Nancy Anderson, **Treasurer** Phyllis Mackey, **Finance Chair** Doris Weinert

Members at Large, Sandy Langdale, Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, and Michael Vanvales

Music reprinted with Permission under One License #A-709179

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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, treats, and fellowship (we have tea, too!).
- ‡ We are so very thankful that Bishop Murray Finck has agreed to stay and will be serving our Interim Pastor.
- ‡ We will be holding our **Congregational Annual Meeting Part 2 on Sunday, February 4** immediately following the Communion Service. Please plan on staying for this important meeting. The Annual Report will be presented and a decision of who will be representing us at the Annual Synod Assembly will be taken.
- ‡ Officers for the Church Council were chosen at the first Church Council meeting on Thursday, January 18. They are: President Kay Pushman, Vice-President Wendy Alfageme, Secretary Nancy Anderson, Treasurer Phyllis Mackey, Finance Chair Doris Weinert. Carmen Leslie was also appointed by the Council to finish the term of Anne Walshe.
- ‡ 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.