

**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  
Epiphany Sunday  
January 5, 2025***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHOIR INTROIT

## OPENING HYMN

[Blue Book] WOV # 651

*“Shine, Jesus, Shine”* [Printed on Page 13]

## GREETING

P Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

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 speak blessing and compassion into 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. 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, live anew as beloved children of God.

C **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**C** Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, 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**

*The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.*

### **The First Lesson is from Isaiah chapter 60 verses 1-6**

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God’s presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God’s praise.*

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together; they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.  
<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

*All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)*

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.  
<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup> Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.  
<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

<sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

<sup>12</sup> For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

<sup>13</sup> He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

### **The Second Lesson is from Ephesians chapter 3 verses 1-12**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

<sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ

<sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for

ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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 Matthew chapter 2 verses 1-12**

*God’s promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when

you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”<sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.<sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Murray Finck

*“What Shall We Do While We Wander?”*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”*

**THE NICENE CREED**

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into**

heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 Let there be light!

## **OFFERTORY**

*“I Wonder As I Wander”*

### **Offering Prayer**

P God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

C Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

## **Invitation to Communion**

**P** A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

*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 Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

### **Blessing**

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

**C** Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**ELW # 677**

*“This Little Light of Mine”* [Printed on Page 14]

### **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace. 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**

***Presider:*** The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

***Organist:*** Sharon Heck

***Holy Communion Assistant:*** Sylvia Makus

***Acolyte*** Sylvia Makus

***Reader:*** Carol Costello

***Prayer Leader:*** Nancy Anderson

***Financial Team:*** Sylvia Makus and Doris Weinert

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday:** 12:00 p.m. Bible Study

**Next Sunday:** 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

**Redeemer Finance: December Offering through December 29**

Budgeted Monthly Expense      \$7,308.00

Offering      \$5,446.00

**Needed for Budget**      \$1,862.00

## **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, Wendy, Elaine, Rachel, Mike, Jesus, Richard, Kelsey, Ginny, Christina, Margaret, Steven, Dian EK Song, Ruben, and Vicky. 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 8 when we will be finishing with our study of the Ten Commandments.
- † 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.