

**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**



***Holy Communion Service
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 13, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 718

“Gather Us In”

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Spirit + -- our one God who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin and come to God for forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the waters of baptism, in the promises of the Holy Spirit, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives our sins ✠ and gives us new life, God. May the God of mercy and grace strengthen us in all goodness and keep us now and forever.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Almighty and ever-living God, **increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to new life and discipleship: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by having and consuming. The words of Jesus counter this message with the invitation to find new life by divesting for the sake of others.

The First Lesson is from Amos chapter 5, selected verses

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while greed, corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

⁶Seek the LORD and live,

⁸The LORD is his name

⁹Who makes destruction flash out against the strong,

So that destruction comes upon the fortress.

¹¹Because you trample on the poor

and take from them levies of grain,

you have built houses of hewn stone,

but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

¹²For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:12-17

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

¹³Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?
Be gracious to your servants.

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us
and as many years as we suffered adversity.

¹⁶Show your servants your works,
and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

The Second Lesson is from Hebrews chapter 4 verses 12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore, we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation: Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation and the Gospel reading, if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

(Congregation stands and sings “Alleluia” following the Reading.)

The Gospel Lesson is from Mark chapter 10 verses 17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

¹⁷As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Murray D. Finck

♪  ♪ "If I Were A Rich Man..." ♪  ♪

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Seek Ye First"

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

“Come, We That Love the Lord”

OFFERING PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. Bless this Holy Table as you emptied yourself on the cross to give us the riches of your grace. Bless also these gifts and our lives which we offer now to you. Help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

LBW [Green Book] Page 71

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P This is the Lord’s table and all is ready. Everyone is welcome. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

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. 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 white grape juice.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

C Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with your grace and love at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P God Almighty, God most merciful, Father, Son, and Spirit +
bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 383

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

DISMISSAL

P Let us go in peace and generosity to follow Jesus.

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: *Carl and Jessica Keene in Honor of Their Anniversary.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

<i>Presider:</i>	The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus
<i>Organist:</i>	Sharon Heck
<i>Holy Communion Assistant</i>	Carmen Leslie
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sylvia Makus
<i>Reader:</i>	Karren Ford
<i>Prayer Leader:</i>	Kathy Stropole
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Wendy Alfageme and Kay Pushman

THIS WEEK

Wednesday:	12:00 Noon Bible Study
	1:30 p.m. – Council Meeting
Sunday:	10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Redeemer Finance: October Offering through October 6

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$2,993.00</u>
Need for Budget	\$4,315.00

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

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, and Margaret. 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.
- † 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.
- † There are flyers on the bulletin board in the entryway for St. Luke's annual Medieval Brass Rubbing and Docent Talk. Pick one up if you are interested.
- † 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.
- † Bible Study will meet on October 16th from noon to about 1:15 p.m. when we will be continuing our study titled: "*The Decalogue – The Ten Commandments*" looking in-depth at Commandments. Bishop Murray Finck will be leading the discussion. Please attend: bring friends, your Bible, and your lunch if you wish!

- † Annual Congregational Meeting Part 1 will be November 10th following the 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service.
- † Mark your calendars for November 14 and 15 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. as we will be offering our Fall Bazaar, again! We will be featuring arts and crafts, baked goods, gently used treasures, jewelry, ceramics and more. There is a sign-up sheet if you would like a table to offer your wares. If you have any questions, please call Carmen Leslie, Chairperson at (562) 430-6950.
- † 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 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.