**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and**

**St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**

**13564 St. Andrews Drive**

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***Holy Communion Service***

***Reformation Sunday***

***October 27, 2024***

**PRELUDE played by organist**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN LBW [Green Book] # 433**

***“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”***

**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. 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 God, **gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on your whole church your saving peace, 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**

*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

**The First Lesson is from Jeremiah chapter 31 verses 31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

31The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 46**

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)*

1God is our refuge and strength,

 a very present help in trouble.

2Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

 and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

3though its waters rage and foam,

 and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

4There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

 the holy habitation of the Most High.

5God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;

 God shall help it at the break of day.

6The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;

 God speaks, and the earth melts away.

7The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

8Come now, regard the works of the LORD,

 what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

9behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;

 who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

10"Be still, then, and know that I am God;

 I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

11The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**The Second Lesson is from Romans chapter 3 verses 19-28**

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

19Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

27Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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 John chapter 8 verses 31-36**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

31Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

34Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON** The Rev. Murray D. Finck

*“Why Are We Free”*

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *“For by Grace You Have Been Saved”*

**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** *“Rise, Shine, You People!”*

**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] # 229**

*“****A Mighty Fortress is Our 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:***Ellen Larsen in Honor of Her Birthday.*

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

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

***Organist:*** Sharon Heck

***Holy Communion Assistant*** Carmen Leslie

***Acolyte*** Sylvia Makus

***Reader:*** Karren Ford

***Prayer Leader:*** Kathy Strople

***Financial Team:*** Wendy Alfageme and Kay Pushman

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday:** 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

*All Saint’s Sunday*

**Redeemer Finance: October Offering through October 20**

 Offering $11,788.00

Budgeted Monthly Expense $7,308.00

Over Budget $4,480.00

**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, and Dian. 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, October 30th, from 12:00 p.m. to about 1:15 p.m. when we will be continuing our study titled: *“The Decalogue – The Ten Commandments”* looking in-depth at Ten Commandments. Please attend. Bring your Bible. Invite a friend. Bring your lunch if you wish!
* 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.
* 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](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.

**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