

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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***Holy Communion Service  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 6, 2024***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 561

*“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

## 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 and in the promises of the Holy Spirit God gives us new life, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. 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** Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for lives that are faithful and steadfast. Teach us to trust in you like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?*

### **The First Lesson is from Genesis chapter 2 verses 18-24**

*Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).*

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

<sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

<sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

<sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 8**

*You crown us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:5)*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!?

<sup>2</sup>you whose glory is chanted above the heavens  
out of the mouths of infants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and avenger.

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine;  
with glory and honor you crown them.

<sup>6</sup>You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:

<sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle,

even the wild beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.  
<sup>9</sup>O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**The Second Lesson is from Hebrews chapter 1 verses 1-4; 2:5-12**

*Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>2:5</sup>Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?

<sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honor,  
<sup>8</sup>subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, <sup>9</sup>but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying,  
"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

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 2-16**

*Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality. God's love and care is for all people. This text emphasizes that women and children are dearly loved, accepted and valued, never to be dismissed as inferior.*

<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" <sup>3</sup>He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" <sup>4</sup>They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup>'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

<sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Murray D. Finck  
*“Creation, Relation, Salvation”*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom”*

## **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.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**L** ... God of grace,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## **OFFERTORY**

*“Bind Us Together”*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. Bless this Holy Table as you open your hands and satisfy the desires of all living beings. Bless also these gifts and our lives which we offer 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 Jesus' table. All is ready and all are always 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. 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. Anyone with any questions may speak with the Pastor. The inside circle of glasses contains grape juice.)*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

C Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity 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 all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 534

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. 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:** *No Requests.*

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

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

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

**Redeemer Finance: September Offering through September 29**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$9,861.00</u>
Over Budget	(\$2,553.00)

*We thank everyone for their generosity. The memorial tributes have been a blessing.*

## **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 Sylvis 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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!

- † 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.
- † Annual Congregational Meeting Part 1 will be November 10<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service.
- † 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