

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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***Holy Communion Service  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 10, 2024***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHOIR INTROIT

## OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 423

*“Lord Whose Love in Humble Service”*

## 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, + one God, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Giver of Faith,

C Amen.

L Let us come in truth before the One who loves us, forgives us, and has freed us from our sin.

*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 These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, we are + forgiven and God remembers our sin no more. Let our heart be glad as we rejoice in the gifts of faith and salvation.

C Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C** O God, you show forth your almighty power by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Women who were also widows are visible in our readings today. Jesus critiques those who pray impressive prayers but then prey on the vulnerability of widows. He commends the poor woman who gave far more than the major donors. Jesus does not see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, gives witness of something of great importance.*

### **The First Lesson is from 1 Kings chapter 17 verses 8-16**

*This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God's saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.*

<sup>8</sup>The word of the LORD came to Elijah, saying, <sup>9</sup>"Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." <sup>12</sup>But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for

myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

<sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth."

<sup>15</sup>She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the people's disgrace will be taken away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our GOD; for whom we have waited, so that we  
might be saved.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in God's gift of salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 146**

*The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish.

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;  
<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who  
hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup>The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

**The Second Lesson is from Hebrews chapter 9 verses 24-28**

*The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.*

<sup>24</sup>Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup>Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26</sup>for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

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

### **The Gospel Lesson is from Mark chapter 12 verses 38-44**

*After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.*

<sup>38</sup>As Jesus taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

<sup>41</sup>He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Murray D. Finck  
*“Three Amazing Women”*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“Take My Life That I May Be”*

## **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** ... Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

## **OFFERTORY**

*"Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal, you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance at this table, and send us forth to feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your compassionate love.

**C** Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** The table of the Lord is ready. Rejoice and give thanks as Christ Jesus invites us to his feast of grace and love.

*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** Faithful God, you have spread before us a heavenly feast, offered through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus. Now send us to labor with you, in service to the world and among the people you call your own, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

**P** May our compassionate Father and Lord; may Jesus, the crucified and risen Son; and may the Holy Spirit, the giver of faith and new life, + bless us now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

**ELW # 679**

*“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

## DISMISSAL

**P** Let us go in peace and generosity to encourage one another.

**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:** *Doris Weinert in Thanksgiving for God's Blessings.*

### **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>	Susan Sinner
<b><i>Prayer Leader:</i></b>	Carol Costello
<b><i>Financial Team:</i></b>	Wendy Alfageme and Kay Pushman

### **THIS WEEK**

***TODAY:*** Annual Congregational Meeting Part 1

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

***Thursday:*** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Holiday Bazaar

***Friday:*** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Holiday Bazaar

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

### **Redeemer Finance: November Offering through November 3**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$2,780.00</u>
<b>Needed for Budget</b>	<b>\$4,528.00</b>

## **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, 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, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 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!
- † Annual Congregational Meeting Part 1 is **TODAY**, November 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Holiday 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.
- † 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 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.