

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
Of Leisure World
13564 St. Andrews Drive
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 598-8697**

**e-mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net
website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com**



***Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 627

“My Lord, What a Morning”

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, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

C **Holy One, we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through + Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

The First Lesson is from Amos chapter 5 verses 18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 70

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

²Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.

³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me

turn back because of their shame.

⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

The Second Lesson is from 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.

¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?”

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The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 25 verses 1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Bishop Murray Finck

"Keeping the Light On"

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Come, We That Love the Lord"

APOSTLES' CREED

L 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 ... Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

OFFERTORY

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW [Green Book] Page 71

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Communion Distribution (The Congregation is invited to come forward by the ushers to receive Communion. If you are unable to come to the altar, Communion will be brought to you in the pew. 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 grape juice.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

C Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.

BLESSING

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 699

“Blessed Assurance”

DISMISSAL

P Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

played by organist

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Worship Coordinator: Jerry Brady (714) 534-2673

Organist: Sharon Heck

Flowers are given by: *No Requests.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

President: Bishop Murray Finck

Communion Assistant Carmen Leslie

Reader / Prayer Leader: Beverly Anderson

Financial Team: Wendy Alfageme and Phyllis Mackey

THIS WEEK

Thursday: 2:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

Note: Starting on December 3, 2023, we will return to celebrating Holy Communion every other week. When there are five Sundays in the month the Lord's Supper will take place on the first, third, and fifth Sundays with a Service of the Word on the second and fourth Sundays. We no longer will use the pre-packaged Communion elements. The presiding Pastor will distribute the individual bread and the Communion Assistant will follow with the individual wine for all who come to the Communion rail.

Redeemer Finance: November Offering through November 5, 2023

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,341.00
Offering	<u>\$3,365.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	\$4,976.00

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jean, Kathy, Wendy, Beverly, Dena, Nancy, Evelyn, Shirlene, Jerry, Dondi, Carol, Mickey, Evelyn, Gloria, Christa, Alice, Barbara, Cedric, Lucy, Karen, Kelly, Raymond, Dick, Marilyn, Brian, Carl, Jessica, Carol, Rose, Ken, Sandra, Elaine, Carmen, Barbara, Betty, Nancy, Phyllis, Sylvia, Gil, Flo, Eileen, Erich, Leslie, Linda, Ronnie, Kay, Violet, Linda, Ron, Collette, Lisa, Patty, Barbara, Joan, Dee, Susan, Anita, Norma, Lathy, Juanita, Clarence, Debbie, Joan, Anne, Doris, Linda, Bruce, Alma, Martha, Marianne, Robert, Laura, Jim, Loretta, Ray, Patty, Delrie, Bill, Betty, Lorna, M. Teresa, Joan, Mike, Frankie, Donna, Ernie, Eileen, Darlene, Sharon, Danota, Lynne, Ethan, Kurt, Brinly, McCall, Kathy, Nayleen, Nicole, Donald, Maria, Andy, Owen, Tom, Anastasia, Claire, Fran, Chris, Kyle, Michele, Bill, Wes, Sam, Kolt, Maeve, Brigid, Joanna, Dale, Karla, and Sands. *Please pray for our Bishop David Nagler, the victims of the Ukrainian/Russian and Israel/Hamas conflicts, and victims and families of all violence and natural disasters.*

Please contact the church to add people to the prayer list.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President Jerry Brady, **Vice-President** Wendy Alfageme, **Secretary** Nancy Anderson, **Treasurer** Phyllis Mackey, **Finance Chair** Kay Pushman

Members at Large: Sandy Langdale, Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Michael Vanvales, and Anne Walshe

Announcements

- ✝ Welcome everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors.
- ✝ Thank you and welcome back to Bishop Murray Finck for Presiding for today's Service. We are honored that Bishop Finck will be with us for Sundays through the end of the year.
- ✝ Part 1 of our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after our Worship Service **TODAY** in the Sanctuary so there is no "travel" need. It should be a short meeting which will present our proposed budget for 2024 and we will also elect members of our Church Council. The Council is recommending: Betty Lucero, Phyllis Mackey, and Kay Pushman for re-election, as they are willing and eligible to serve three-year terms again, and Doris Weinert to serve her first three-year term. Nominations from the floor are also most certainly welcome. This will be followed by pumpkin pie [with whipped cream] in the Fellowship Hall!
- ✝ With a heavy heart and with Pastor Lisa Rotchford's letter of resignation, with many regrets, and her love and understanding for our congregation, the Church Council considers the office of Pastor for Redeemer Lutheran Church vacant. Because of her lingering health problems, our next step will be to obtain the services of an Interim Pastor. Jerry Brady and Kay Pushman will be meeting with Bishop David Nagler and Pastor Jennifer Schultz of the ELCA Pacifica Synod soon. The really important part of all of this is to constantly pray for Pastor Lisa's recovery. She is improving but it will be a while before she returns to normal activity. Pray! Pray! And pray again!
- ✝ At this time, we are encouraging people to consider wearing a mask again, especially in Church, due to the spike in Covid-19 cases. Initial symptoms are headache and fever. Please consult with your doctor if you are experiencing these or other symptoms. We continue to have masks available in the entryway for your use. We need to join together to keep everyone safe and healthy.
- ✝ Please take a moment and fill out the attendance slip found in the rack in the pews. Please place it in the offertory plate. Thank you!
- ✝ 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.
- ✝ Our current newsletter, if you want a printed copy, is available in the entryway. It is available online on our website at: www.redeemerasealbeach.com. It is sent out via email, if we have your email address. If you are not receiving it, please let us know so we can confirm your address in our system.