

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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*Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service  
Christ the King  
Last Sunday in the Church Year  
November 26, 2023*

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 170

*“Crown Him with Many Crowns”*

## 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 always awake for you. We are not always faithful in using your gifts. We often forget the least of our siblings. We do not always see your beautiful image in one another. We are afflicted by the sins 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 and one another. Amen.**

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through + Jesus we are forgiven, by Jesus we are welcome, in Jesus we 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 power and might, **your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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 WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.*

## **The First Lesson is from Ezekiel chapter 34 verses 11-16, 20-24**

*Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

**PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a**

*We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)*

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

<sup>7a</sup>For the LORD is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture  
and the sheep of God's hand.

## **The Second Lesson is from Ephesians chapter 1 verses 15-23**

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

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

## **The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 25 verses 31-46**

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of

the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

Bishop Murray Finck

*"The King's Priorities"*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"Soon and Very Soon"*

**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

*“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

## 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. All are welcome. 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 us reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, our Sovereign Father, + our Savior, the Son, and our Comforter, the Holy Spirit, be with you today and always.

**C** **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**LBW [Green Book] # 534**

*“Now Thank We All Our God”*

## **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:** *Kay Pushman to the Kingship of Jesus.*

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

***President:*** Bishop Murray Finck

***Communion Assistant*** Carmen Leslie

***Reader / Prayer Leader:*** Beverly Anderson

***Financial Team:*** Kay Pushman and Doris Weinert

**THIS WEEK**

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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*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 19, 2023**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,341.00
Offering	<u>\$6,653.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	\$1,688.00

## **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, Sands, Gloria, Tom, and Rosalia.

*Please pray for our Bishop David Nagler, (ELCA) and Bishop John Taylor (ECUSA), 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.
- ✝ Next Sunday Advent starts as does our return to every other week Holy Communion.
- ✝ There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway for Poinsettias for Christmas. They are \$8.00 each.
- ✝ There is also a sign-up sheet in the entryway for a cookie exchange we are planning to have on December 24 after our Service.
- ✝ We are again trying to plan an acceptance of new members! Bishop Finck has agreed to accept new members for us so please speak to him. We need to plan a date so please pick up a member's form from the entryway and return it as soon as possible.
- ✝ 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](http://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.