

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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***Holy Communion Service  
First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024***

## **PRELUDE**

played by organist

## **PIANO DUET**

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CHOIR INTROIT**

## **OPENING HYMN**

**ELW # 257**

*“O Come. O Come, Emmanuel” Verses 1-3*

## **GREETING**

**P** Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**C** God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned when we trust earthly powers and human authority more than you. We confess that we become fearful and cling to false comforts and promises. Merciful God, we confess we have not always loved you with our whole heart, soul, and mind; and we have failed to love and care for our neighbors as you ask of us. We seek your forgiveness. Come near to us. Bring us the assurance of your mercy and grace.

**P** A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**C** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come to be with us. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**Congregation sings verse 1**

*“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”*

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**P** We praise you, O God, as this wreath helps us to mark our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle, help us to watch and wait, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with great joy. We pray in the name of Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C** Amen.

*Light the first candle.*

**Congregation sings verse 1 (again)**

*“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”*

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

### **Introduction**

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days:*

*another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*

**The First Lesson is from Jeremiah chapter 33 verses 14-16**

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name — “The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10**

*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)*

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the  
day long.

<sup>6</sup> Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake  
of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup> You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup> All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

**The Second Lesson is from 1 Thessalonians chapter 3 verses 9-13**  
*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

<sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

*(Congregation stands and sings “Thy Word before the Gospel.”)*

### **The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 21 verses 25-36**

*God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.*

Jesus said: <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

## SERMON

The Rev. Brad Stienstra

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*“Christ, Be Our Light”*

## THE NICENE CREED

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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** ... Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** receive our prayer.

## **OFFERTORY**

*“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”*

### **Offering Prayer**

**P** Creator God, you made this world, and the incomprehensible universe, and now you draw near to us to offer us this spiritual food. We praise you for the gift of your sacrifice, in, with, and under the bread and wine. Strengthen us with this heavenly meal that we may live each day in expectation of the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

### **Invitation to Communion**

**P** God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table. All are always welcome.

*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** Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread and the cup of salvation. We thank you for being God among us, for loving us and leading us to your peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, then sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and be with us as we feed the hungry and love one another in your name. Amen.

## Blessing

**P** God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and bringer of light, God, our hope for the journey, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ✠ bless us and keep us now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

**LBW # 25**

*“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”*

## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**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**

<i><b>Presider:</b></i>	The Rev. Brad Stienstra
<i><b>Organist:</b></i>	Sharon Heck
<i><b>Holy Communion Assistant</b></i>	Carmen Leslie
<i><b>Acolyte</b></i>	Sylvia Makus
<i><b>Reader:</b></i>	Nancy Anderson
<i><b>Prayer Leader:</b></i>	Kay Pushman
<i><b>Financial Team:</b></i>	Sylvia Makus and Kay Pushman

## **THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday:** NO Bible Study

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

*Second Sunday of Advent*

**Redeemer Finance: Not Available at Time of Printing**

## **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.
- † Thank you to The Rev. Brad Stienstra for presiding for us today. We are glad you are serving with us again!
- † 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.
- † Would you like to contribute to a monetary Christmas gift for Bishop Finck? If you would, please give your gift **in an envelope with Bishop Finck's name on it** by December 22. You can put it in the offering plate, give it directly to Kay Pushman, or drop it in my mail. I live at 13560 Saint Andrews Drive 3C; just 4 doors down from the church. If you wish to write a check, please make it out to Kay Pushman (do not make it out to the church). I know Bishop Finck will be so happy to know the members are thinking of him.
- † The Bible Study will **NOT** meet on Wednesdays, until the new year. Please join us on December 11 and 18 for an Advent Reflection Study and Supper at 3:00 p.m. and our Christmas Eve Service and Brunch with a Cookie Exchange on December 24 at 10:30 a.m.!
- † 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.
- † We will be having Advent Reflection Study and Supper on December 11 and 18 at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and bring friends!
- † We will be having a Christmas Eve Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary followed by a brunch and optional cookie exchange in the Fellowship Hall.