

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
13564 St. Andrews Drive
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 598-8697**

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



**DECEMBER 24, 2024
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

PRELUDE played by organist

PIANO DUET

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

“Away In a Manger”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 71

***“Angels We Have Heard on High”*verses 1 and 2**

Angels we have hear on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains,

Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo*

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, the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

P Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Almighty God, you made this holy day shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DIALOG *(as the candles are all lighted)*

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. We have beheld Christ's glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Scripture Lesson is from Luke chapter 1 verses 26-33, 38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Scripture Lesson is from Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Congregation Sings

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wonder'ing love,
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

Scripture Lesson is from Luke chapter 2 verses 8-20

The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This was be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Congregation Sings

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners
reconciled."

Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn
king!"*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his
wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second
birth.

Refrain

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Bishop Murray Finck

"What Shall We Do While We Wonder?"

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

C Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our
human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By
your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with
your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.

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 ... God of grace,

C let there be light!

OFFERTORY

“O Holy Night”

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, Light of the World and the Word made flesh.
- C** Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW [Green Book] Page 71

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace. All is ready and all are 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.)

Congregation Sings

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the king of angels:

Refrain

*Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

C God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace and bearers of your light. Help us to shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P May our Lord God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son, and Holy Spirit + bless us and keep us; shine light upon us and be gracious to us; and look upon us with favor and give us peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Congregation Sings

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

DISMISSAL

P Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

played by organist

Music reprinted with Permission under One License #A-709179

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Interim Pastor: The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Organist and Choir Director: Sharon Heck

Flowers are given by: *Poinsettias. Dale, Wendy, Linda, Nancy, Annie, Ellen, and Emiko.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

<i>Presider:</i>	The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus
<i>Organist:</i>	Sharon Heck
<i>Holy Communion Assistant:</i>	Carmen Leslie
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sylvia Makus
<i>Reader:</i>	Rhoda Finck
<i>Prayer Leader:</i>	Nancy Anderson
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Sylvia Makus and Kay Pushman

THIS WEEK

TODAY: Christmas Eve Brunch following Service.
Cookie Exchange if you brought cookies, also.

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

Note: The Office will be closed from December 23rd through January 1st.

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,
Dian EK Song, and Ruben. 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 everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors. A Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all!
- ✠ Please join us for our Christmas Eve Brunch in the Fellowship Hall following the Service. There will be a Cookie Exchange if you brought cookies to exchange.
- ✠ 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 NEW 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.
- † Printed copies of our current newsletter are available in the entryway. It is online on our website at: www.redeemersealbeach.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.