

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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***Holy Communion Service  
First Sunday of Christmas  
December 29, 2024***

**PRELUDE**

played by organist

**PIANO DUET**

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**OPENING HYMN**

**[Green Book] LBW # 60**

[Printed on page 13]

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

**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, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C** **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**C** God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

- P Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, ✠ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.
- C Amen.

### **Prayer of the Day**

- C Shine into our hearts **the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

### **Introduction**

*On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.*

### **The First Lesson is from 1 Samuel chapter 2 verses 18-20, 26**

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the loan that she made to the LORD," and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 148**

*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;

<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup> young men and maidens,  
old and young together.

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and  
heaven.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all  
faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.  
Hallelujah!

### **The Second Lesson is from Colossians chapter 3 verses 12-17**

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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 2 verses 41-52**

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

<sup>41</sup> Now every year Jesus’s parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you.” <sup>49</sup> He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Murray Finck

*“What Shall We Do While We **Work?**”*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy”*

## **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 receive our prayer.

## **OFFERTORY**

*“Cold December Flies Away”*

### **Offering Prayer**

P God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.  
C Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**



## **Invitation to Communion**

**P** A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

*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** Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

## **Blessing**

**P** The God of love, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**C** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**[Green Book] LBW # 70**

[Printed on Page 14]

*“Go Tell It On the Mountain”*

## **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**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:** *Poinsettias. Dedications on pages 15-16.*

### **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>	Rhoda Finck
<b><i>Prayer Leader:</i></b>	Nancy Anderson
<b><i>Financial Team:</i></b>	Sylvia Makus and Kay Pushman

### **THIS WEEK**

**TODAY:** *December Birthdays Celebrated at Fellowship*

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

### **Redeemer Finance: December Offering through December 22**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$4,932.00</u>
<b>Needed for Budget</b>	<b>\$2,376.00</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, Dian EK Song, and Ruben. Please contact the church to add people to the prayer list.

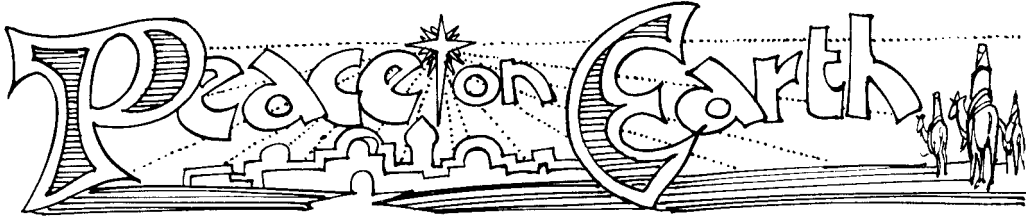
*Please pray for our Bishop David Nagler, (ELCA) and Bishop John Taylor (ECUSA), the victims of the Ukrainian/Russian, Israel/Hamas conflicts, the civil strife in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and victims and families of all violence and natural disasters.*

*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 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!). We will be celebrating our December Birthday for *Nancy Luebben*. 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 Wednesdays, until January 8 where we will be finishing the Ten Commandments.
- † 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 2025 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.



## *Christmas Poinsettia Dedications – 2024*

### **From:**

*Wendy Alfageme  
Beverly Anderson  
Nancy Anderson  
Shirlene Bradrick  
Carol Costello  
Dale and Christa Diesslin*

### **In Honor or Memory of:**

*In Memory of Dena Anderson  
In Honor of of Family  
In Honor of My Family  
In Memory of My Parents and Brother  
In Memory of Pastor Gil*

*In Memory of Husband and Father, Charles  
Bishop Murray and Rhoda Finck  
Ray Friedrichsen  
Ellen Larsen  
Carmen Leslie  
Barbara Long  
Betty Lucero  
Nancy Luebben and Bruce Young  
Rusty and Louise Young and Dougan and Mary Luebben  
In Memory of Pastor Gil Moore and Lavona Moore  
In Memory of Canon Edward Hailwood and The Rev. Michael Francis  
In Memory of Our Godparents, Episcopal, Lutheran, Quaker,  
and Presbyterian  
In Honor of My Family  
In Memory of My Wife, Camille  
In Celebration of the Birth of Christ  
In Memory of Mike Peters  
In Memory of My Husband, Jim*

*Jeanne Thompson*  
*Rod Sciborski and Julia Watson*  
*Emiko Uchiyama*  
*Doris Weinert*  
*Annie Willequer*

*In Honor of My Husband, Don*  
*In Honor of Our Grandkids*  
*In Memory of My Husband*  
*In Memory of My Parents*  
*In Memory of My Husband, Clifford*

## ***Blessings to All for a Holy Season***

