

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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*Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service
First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023*

PRELUDE

played by organist

PIANO DUETS

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing and What Child is This?”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 34

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

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, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C **Amen.**

P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C **Everlasting God, you love justice, and you are displeased with our wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that often make us reluctant to work against oppression. We become complicit in systems of exploitation. We tend to choose comfort over courage. We have become careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

P Hear these words of assurance: God clothes us with garments of salvation and covers us with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Stir up your power, **Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Congregation sings verse 1

WOV [Blue Book] # 630

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

First Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting the first candle.

L Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to tear open the gates of heavens and come again into our world. Both cry out for God to show up, to save, to restore a fallen world. The Gospel readings from Matthew and Luke help us begin a six-week series on the nativity, infancy, and childhood of Jesus, from the way Joseph may have seen and experienced it.

The First Lesson is from Isaiah chapter 64 verses 1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- on the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
¹⁸And so will we never turn a- way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- on your name.
¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verses 3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

The Gospel Lessons are selected verses from Matthew and Luke.

The two genealogies of Jesus are recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, however they are not exactly the same. While we cannot be sure, many biblical scholars have concluded that Matthew's Gospel traces Jesus' ancestry through the lineage of Joseph, Jesus' earthly adoptive father; and Luke's Gospel may trace his heritage through the lineage of Mary. If this interpretation is true, both Joseph's and Mary's family history converges many generations earlier with David, King of Israel.

Matthew 1: ¹An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers...

⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah...

and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Luke 3: ²³Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph...

son of Noah, son of Lamech, ³⁷son of Methuselah, son of Enoch, son of Jared, son of Mahalaleel, son of Cainan, ³⁸son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Bishop Murray Finck

“The Long Lineage”

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Christ, Be Our Light”

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 ... Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

OFFERTORY

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

OFFERING PRAYER

P God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

LBW [Green Book] Page 71

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the 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 Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of peace bless us, the love of Christ sustain us in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon us now and forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 744

“Soon and Very Soon”

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

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

Presider: Bishop Murray Finck

Communion Assistant Carmen Leslie

Reader / Prayer Leader: Nancy Anderson

Financial Team: Wendy Alfageme and Doris Weinert

THIS WEEK

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Redeemer Finance: November Offering through November 26, 2023

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,341.00
Offering	<u>\$7,058.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	\$1,283.00

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

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 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 and Israel/Hamas conflicts, 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.
- ✝ Thank you to Bishop Murray Finck for Presiding for today's Service. For the next six weeks, he will be exploring with the congregation an in-depth understanding of the nativity, infancy, and childhood of Jesus. We are honored that Bishop Finck will be with us for Sundays through the end of the year.
- ✝ 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 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.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.