

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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***Holy Communion Service  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHOIR INTROIT

## OPENING HYMN

WOV [Green Book] # 30

*“Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”*

## INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

## 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 home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C Long-expected God, we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting, and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

- P** God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. In Christ ✠ we are freed and forgiven, saved by his grace. He is our Savior and Redeemer.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

- C** Stir up our hearts, **Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**Congregation sings verse 2**

***“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”***

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- P** Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.
- C** **Amen.**

*Light the first and second candle.*

**Congregation sings verse 2 of “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”, again**

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

## **Introduction**

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

## **The First Lesson is from Isaiah chapter 11 verses 1-10**

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

*May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)*

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- <sup>2</sup> that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;
- <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- <sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.
- <sup>6</sup> Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,

like showers that water the earth.

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup> Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

### **The Second Lesson is from Romans chapter 15 verses 4–13**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,  
“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,  
“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup> and again,  
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

*(Congregation stands and sings “Open Our Eyes” following the Second Lesson.)*

### **The Gospel Lesson from Matthew chapter 3 verses 1–12**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these

stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

<sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus  
*“Cleaning House and Home and Heart”*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“All Earth is Hopeful”*

**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** hear our prayer.

**OFFERTORY: Solo** *“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”* Lisa Nunley

### **Offering Prayer**

**P** Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in  
the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our hunger and thirst for  
your love and grace. We offer these gifts with joy. May they be  
used to care for your Church and those in need, that we may be a  
sign of your kingdom come.  
**C** Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Here is life. Emanuel! God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised at the Table of the Lord. All is ready and everyone is always welcome.

*Holy Communion Distribution (The Congregation is invited 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 non-alcoholic grape juice.)*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**C** God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## Blessing

**P** May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant us patience in our Advent waiting and watching, peace in the darkness and brokenness around us, and the Good News of God's light and love today and always.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

**LBW [Green Book] # 26**

***“Prepare the Royal Highway”***

## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace with hearts swept clean by the grace of God

**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:** *Advent Environment*

### **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>	Carol Costello
<b><i>Prayer Leader</i></b>	Rhoda Finck
<b><i>Financial Team</i></b>	Wendy Alfageme and Kay Pushman

### **THIS WEEK**

**TODAY:** Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall  
**Wednesday:** 3:00 p.m. Advent Gathering and Supper  
**Next Sunday:** 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service  
*Third Sunday of Advent*

### **Redeemer Finance: Monthly Offering through November 30**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,250.00
Offering	<u>\$4,997.50</u>
<b>Needed for Budget</b>	<b>\$3,252.50</b>

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**President:** Kay Pushman, **Vice President:** Wendy Alfageme,  
**Secretary:** Nancy Anderson, **Treasurer:** Doris Weinert  
**Members at Large:** Susan Avila, Carol Costello, Sandy Langdale,

Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Linda Peters 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, Marilyn, Brian, **Carl**, **Jessica**, Carol, Rose, Sandra, Elaine, Barbara, Betty, **Nancy**, **Phyllis**, Sylvia, Flo, Eileen, **Erich**, Leslie, Linda, **Ronnie**, **Kay**, Violet, Linda, Ron, Collette, **Lisa**, Patty, **Barbara**, Joan, **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, Tom, Rosalia, Elaine, Rachel, Mike, Jesus, **Richard**, **Kelsey**, Margaret, Steven, Dian, EK Song, Linda, Ronni, **Hiroko**, Sibonay, Keith, **Wendy**, Carmen, Pyongyang, Leslie, **Ann**, **George**, **Margie Sung-ho Kim**, **John**, **Jann**, **Kathy**, **Toni**, and **Andrew**. Please contact the church to add people to the prayer list.

*Please pray for those affected by disastrous floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and pray for the first responders during these devastating calamities.*

*Please pray for our Presiding Bishop, Yahiel, and local Bishop, David Nagler of the ELCA, and our Presiding Bishop, Sean, and local Bishop John of the ECUSA. We also pray for the victims of the Ukrainian/Russian, Israel/Hamas conflicts, the civil strife in Africa, and the 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 join us after the Service for Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.
- † 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!
- † We wanted to remind everyone that we are continuously collecting food donations of canned and boxed foods for the hungry. Thank you to all those who have brought in food over the last few weeks. This food is donated to Lutheran Social Services in Orange County to help our wider community.
- † We ask you to listen carefully to the names read during the Prayers of the People (**bolded** in the prayer list) and read over the Prayer List in the bulletin. Please let us know when we can remove them. The prayer list is meant for additional prayers when someone is going through a special need for more prayer. Examples: surgeries, cancer, heart concerns, falls, broken bones, hospital stays, accidents, hospice, and such immediate conditions in need of extra prayers. **We are planning to clear the Prayer List and begin anew with the beginning of the year. Please make your prayer request again to be included. We would like the first and last name of the person and your name if you are requesting prayers for someone else.**
- † We will be gathering on Wednesdays: December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. for an Advent program, followed by a meal together at 4:00 p.m.
- † If you would like to add beauty to our altar beginning on December

14, there is a sheet to sign up for poinsettias. The cost for each plant is \$10. Please complete the dedication line, and it will be included in our bulletin.

- † Our Christmas Eve Service is December 24 at 10:30 followed with brunch. Please join us for fellowship on this joyful day. If you are able to help with the event, there is a signup sheet.
- † Forms for the Memorial Cross Wall are on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you wish to honor a friend or family member in this way, please fill out a form.
- † 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.
- † The **NEW 2026** 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.
- † Call for the Leisure World On-Call Bus Service up to three days in advance if you are having issues with it in regard to getting to Church on Sundays. (562) 472-1367 is the dedicated line.
- † Printed copies of our current newsletter and midweek communiqué are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. The newsletter is also online on our website at: [www.redeemersealbeach.com](http://www.redeemersealbeach.com). They are both 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.