

**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 8, 2024***

## **PRELUDE**

played by organist

## **PIANO DUETS**

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CHOIR INTROIT**

## **OPENING HYMN**

**ELW # 257**

***“O Come. O Come, Emmanuel” Verses 1, 4, 5***

## **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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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**

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

**P** We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C** Amen.

*Light two candles.*

**Congregation sings verse 1 and 2** [while Candles are lit]  
***“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”***

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

### **Introduction**

*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the Gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”*

### **The First Lesson is from Malachi chapter 3 verses 1-4**

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like washers’ soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm: Luke 1:68-79**

*In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)*

- <sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
    you have come to your people and set them free.
- <sup>69</sup> You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
    born of the house of your servant David.
- <sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from  
our enemies,  
    <sup>71</sup> from the hands of all who hate us,
- <sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our forebears,  
    and to remember your holy covenant.
- <sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
    <sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship you without fear,
- <sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
- <sup>77</sup> to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
    by the forgiveness of their sins.
- <sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God  
    the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- <sup>79</sup> to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of  
death,  
    and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

## **The Second Lesson is from Philippians chapter 1 verses 3-11**

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God for every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy <sup>5</sup> for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 3 verses 1-6**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

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 **Wait?**”*

**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** ... Lord, in your mercy,

**C** let there be light!

## OFFERTORY

*“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”*



## 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 love and mercy. This is the Lord Jesus' 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 and light, 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 # 26**

*“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

## **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel and let there be light.

**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. Dale, Wendy, Linda, and Nancy.*

### **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

**Presider:** The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

**Organist:** Sharon Heck

**Holy Communion Assistant:** Carmen Leslie

**Acolyte** Sylvia Makus

**Reader:** Rhoda Finck

**Prayer Leader:** Nancy Anderson

**Financial Team:** Sylvia Makus and Kay Pushman

## **THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday:** 3:00 p.m. Advent Reflection Study and Supper

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

*Third Sunday of Advent*

### **Redeemer Finance: November Offering through November 24**

Offering	\$14,370.00
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Budgeted Monthly Expense	<u>\$7,308.00</u>
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<b>Above Budget</b>	\$7,062.00
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*We received a generous year end donation from one of our members. We are exceedingly grateful for this gift. Thank you, especially, and for the generosity of all to keep this congregation in financial health.*

### **Redeemer Finance: December Offering through December 1**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
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Offering	<u>\$3,177.00</u>
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<b>Needed for Budget</b>	\$4,131.00
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## **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 and EK Song. 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!). 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.
- † 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.! The Bible Study will **NOT** meet on Wednesdays, until the new year.
- † 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.