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*Holy Communion Service  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 16, 2025*

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHOIR INTROIT

## OPENING HYMN

[Green Book] LBW # 530

*“Jesus Shall Reign”*

[Printed on Page 14]

## GREETING

P Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit be upon us all.

C **And also with you.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C **Merciful God, you offer your blessings and compassion upon the world. Forgive us when we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We are sorry when we ignore the needs of our neighbors; resist your call to oppose injustice; give in to scarcity and fear; or assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness and grace. Restore our hearts and heal your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

- P** God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In the cross and empty tomb of † Christ, we are forgiven and made free. In the power of the Holy Spirit and refreshed by the baptismal waters of mercy, let us live anew as beloved children of God.
- C** Amen.

### **Prayer of the Day**

- C** Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature through the riches of your grace. Renew our lives that we may make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

### **Introduction**

*Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.*

### **The First Lesson is from Jeremiah chapter 17 verses 5-10**

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert

and shall not see when relief comes.  
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm: Psalm 1**

*They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due  
season, with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

**The Second Lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 12-20**

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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 6 verses 17-26**

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

<sup>17</sup> Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

<sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Murray Finck

*“Leveling the Field”*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“Blest Are They”*

## **THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**C 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.**

*\*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**

*“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”*



## **Offering Prayer**

**P** God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight, and you have blessed us with bounty. Receive these gifts from your gracious abundance, and help us to join with the choruses of creation to tell of your love. We thank you for this Holy Table as you offer us your greatest gift of sacrifice and grace.

**C** **Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

### **Invitation to Communion**

**P** Receive this gift of Jesus, our Redeemer. The table is ready and 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 non-alcoholic grape juice.)*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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

## **Blessing**

**P** May the God of love, life, and light, the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with grace, shine light on your path, and multiply your joy, today and always.

**C** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**[Blue Book] WOV # 763**

***“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”***

**[Printed on Page 15]**

## **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace. May the words of Jesus dwell in us 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:** *Jann Shaffer in Memory of My Dad.*

## **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>	Carmen Leslie
<b><i>Reader:</i></b>	Nancy Anderson
<b><i>Prayer Leader:</i></b>	Kay Pushman
<b><i>Financial Team:</i></b>	Barbara Long and Kay Pushman

## **THIS WEEK**

<b>TODAY:</b>	Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday:</b>	10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. “At the End of Life.” Gathering 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 1:30p.m. Church Council Meeting
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

### **Redeemer Finance: February Offering through February 9**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,250.00
Offering	<u>\$3,916.00</u>
<b>Needed for Budget</b>	<b>\$4,334.00</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, Dick, 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, Karla, **Sands**, Gloria, Tom, Rosalia, Elaine, Rachel, Mike, **Jesus**, **Richard**, **Kelsey**, Ginny, Margaret, Steven, Dian, EK Song, **Vicky**, and **Donna**. Please contact the church to add people to the prayer list.

*Please pray for the family and friends of Dee Sessa who joined the Church Triumphant February 5, 2025.*

*Please pray for those affected by the wildfires, fire personnel, and first responders during these devastating wildfires.*

*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.
- † We have received word that Dee Sessa joined the Church Triumphant on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.
- † 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. The birthday cake for Alma Zamzow's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday was provided by her family.
- † Our next gathering to discuss, prepare, and record the information you may wish to leave "**At the End of Life.**" Will be on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- † The Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Fellowship Hall to continue the study of the Sermon on the Mount. Please come prepared by reading Matthew 6:16-34. Please, bring your Bible and feel free to bring your lunch, friends and neighbors to this new study.
- † Church Council Meeting is Wednesday, February 19 at 1:30 p.m.
- † Please 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.
- † If you wish to donate to the people affected by the wildfires, you may make a check to Lutheran Disaster Response and note the funds are for the L A Wildfires or donate cash in an envelope and put it in the collection plate. Please note on the envelope that it is for Lutheran Disaster Response. You may also donate online at: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>
- † **New Member Reception in Early March.** We are start the conversations and preparations for another New Member Reception for any who desire to join the official membership of the congregation. The form will be

available on Sunday mornings. It is also attached to the weekly Communiqué. **If you are interested, please fill out the form** and give it to Pastor Finck on Sunday morning or send it to the church address on the front of the bulletin. There is never any pressure for people to officially join in membership. We always welcome, include, and love our visitors, friends, associate members, and members.

- † Annual Reports are due in the office as soon as possible. It takes time to prepare and print the Annual Report.
- † Our Annual Meeting Part 2 will be Sunday, **March 2, 2025** after our regular Service. This is a date change for the meeting. Please note it in your calendar.
- † Cedric Elmer is in the Seal beach Rehabilitation Center recovering from foot surgery. He would love to receive phone calls at: (562) 374-3217.
- † 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 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.
- † 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 entry-way. 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.