

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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***Holy Communion Service  
First Sunday in Lent  
February 18, 2024***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## PIANO DUET

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

*“Simple Gifts/Holy, Holy, Holy”*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 230

*“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*

### Greeting

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

C: **God’s mercy endures forever.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C **Amen.**

P Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C **Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C** Holy God, heavenly Father, **in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from the enticements of the evil one. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WE HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.*

### **The First Lesson is from Genesis chapter 9 verses 8-17**

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all

flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

*Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths. R

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

## **The Second Lesson is from 1 Peter chapter 3 verses 18-22**

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

*(Congregation stands and sings “We Are Turning, Lord, to Hear You” following the Second Reading.)*

**The Gospel Lesson is from Mark chapter 1 verses 9-15**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

<sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

<sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ

**SERMON**

Bishop Murray D. Finck

*"Bathing Before the Battle"*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"Thy Holy Wings"*

## **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** ... Hear us, O God.

**C** Your mercy is great.

## **OFFERTORY**

*“Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

**C** Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. All are welcome!  
*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, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

## BLESSING

**P** Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

**LBW [Green Book] # 229**

***"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"***

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

**played by organist**

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**Interim Pastor:** Bishop Murray Finck

**Organist:** Sharon Heck

**Flowers are given by:** *Lenten Environment.*

### **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

<i>President:</i>	Bishop Murray Finck
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Carmen Leslie
<i>Reader / Prayer Leader:</i>	Kay Pushman
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Kay Pushman and Doris Weinert

### **THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday:** 3:00 p.m. New Members Meetings, Preparation for Baptism, and Re-affirmation of Faith – Conference Room

4:00 p.m. Lenten Study, Hymns, and Soup Supper – Fellowship Hall

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

### **Redeemer Finance: February Offering through February 11, 2024**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,307.52
Offering	<u>\$4,494.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	\$2,813.52

### **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**

Jean, Kathy, Wendy, Beverly, Dena, Nancy, Evelyn, Shirlene, Jerry, 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, Rosalia, Wendy, and Rhoda.

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. Everyone is invited down to the Fellowship Hall after Service for coffee, treats, and fellowship (we have tea, too!).
- † At 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Conference Room, we are beginning classes in preparation for the reception of new members, for the Sacrament of Baptism, and as an opportunity for any others to have a brief “refresher course” in what we teach and believe, and why. There will be five one-hour classes beginning February 21. The first session will be an Overview of Lutheran and Episcopal Theology – Part One: *How We Read the Bible and What We Believe About God*. Please consider also staying for the Lenten Soup Suppers to follow at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- † We will be starting our annual Lenten Devotions on Wednesday, February 21 at 4:00 p.m. It will include a study, hymns, and a time for fellowship during a meal. Come and prepare for a fulfilling Lent!
- † If you are interested in receiving the weekly newsletter, by email, from the Pacifica Synod, so you know what is happening please let us know and we will help you sign up for it.
- † 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](http://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.