

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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***Holy Communion Service
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2, 2025***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR INTROIT

OPENING HYMN

[Green Book] LBW # 415

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

[Printed on Page 13]

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 repair 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 † Christ, we are forgiven. In the Spirit, we are made free.
Refreshed by the baptismal waters of mercy, let us live anew as beloved children of God.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

C Almighty and ever-living God, **increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; that we may enjoy what you promise, love what you command, and believe your word and will; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

Introduction

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and word, bread and wine, to reveal God’s glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

The First Lesson is from Jeremiah chapter 1 verses 4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah’s task is to preach God’s word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 71:1-6

From my mother's womb you have been my strength. (Ps. 71:6)

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

² In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

⁶ I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my
mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.

The Second Lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 1-13
Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

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 4 verses 21-30

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

²¹ Then Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue in Nazareth, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many

with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Murray Finck

“Pastor, I Did NOT Like Your Sermon Today.”



CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Gift of Love”

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

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

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

Invitation to Communion

P Receive this gift of Jesus, our Messiah. 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, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN**[Green Book] LBW # 315**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

[Printed on Page 14]

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: *Wendy Alfageme in Honor of My Grandson, Rafael.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

<i>Presider:</i>	The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus
<i>Organist:</i>	Sharon Heck
<i>Holy Communion Assistant:</i>	Carmen Leslie
<i>Acolyte</i>	Carmen Leslie
<i>Reader:</i>	Nancy Anderson
<i>Prayer Leader:</i>	Kay Pushman
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Susan Avila and Kay Pushman

THIS WEEK

TODAY:	Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
Wednesday:	12:00 p.m. Bible Study
Next Sunday:	10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Redeemer Finance: January Offering through January 26

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,250.00
Offering	<u>\$7,353.00</u>
Needed for Budget	\$897.00

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, 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 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.
- † 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 Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, February 5th at noon in the Fellowship Hall to begin a study of the Sermon on the Mount. Over the next 4 weeks the Bible Study will be going through portions of Matthew chapters 5-7. Please come prepared by reading Matthew 5:1-26. Please bring your Bible and feel free to bring your lunch, friends and neighbors to this new study.
- † As the new year begins, we are looking over our Prayer List and are concerned that while we are all in need of prayers, the list has become very long. 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. If you have added names, 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>

- † 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.
- † 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 entryway. It is online on our website at: 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.

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