**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and**

**St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**

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***Holy Communion Service***

***Second Sunday in Lent***

***February 25, 2024***

**PRELUDE played by organist**

**PIANO DUET** Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

*“In the Garden”*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN LBW** **[Green Book] # 231**

***“O Word of God Incarnate”***

**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 Hear God’s promise 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** O God, **by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to look upon the cross of Christ that we may be willing to suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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**

*The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

**The First Lesson is from Genesis chapter 17 verses 1-7, 15-16**

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." 3Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the

ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 15God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

**PSALM**: **Psalm 22:23-31**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*

23You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

 Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

24For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;

 but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

25From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

 I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

26The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

 Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

 May your hearts live forever!

27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

 all the families of nations shall bow before God.

28For dominion belongs to the LORD,

 who rules over the nations.

29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

 all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,

 shall kneel before the LORD.

30Their descendants shall serve the LORD,

 whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

31They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

 saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**The Second Lesson is from Romans chapter 4 verses 13-25**

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

13For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

 16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." 19He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20No distrust made him waver concerning

the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." 23Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, 24but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 8 verses 31-38**

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

31Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

 34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole

world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

L The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON** Bishop Murray D. Finck

*“New Names and New Identities”*

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”*

**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** *“How Firm a Foundation”*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P Jesus, you are the Bread of Life as you offer us 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 This is bread for the journey, a feast for hungry hearts. All are welcome! The table is ready.

*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 help us to feed the world with your bounty; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P Beloved, we are God’s people--holy, washed, forgiven, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy and love, fill you with courage and compassion, and + give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN LBW** **[Green Book] # 500**

***“Faith of Our Fathers”***

**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**

***Presider*:** Bishop Murray Finck

***Communion Assistant*** Carmen Leslie

***Reader / Prayer Leader:*** Kay Pushman

***Financial Team:*** 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 18, 2024**

Budgeted Monthly Expense $7,307.52

Offering $5,652.00

Needed to meet expenses $1,655.52

**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 are five one-hour classes. The second session on February 28th will be an Overview of Lutheran and Episcopal Theology – Part Two: *The Ten Commandments, Prayer, Confession, and Worship*
* We are continuing our annual Lenten Devotions on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It will include a study, hymns, and a time for fellowship during a meal. We are looking at the four Gospels that cover Jesus’s Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem through his Passion and Death. This week we are looking at *The Cleansing of the Temple*. 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.
* 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.redeemersealbeach.com](http://www.redeemersealbeach.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.