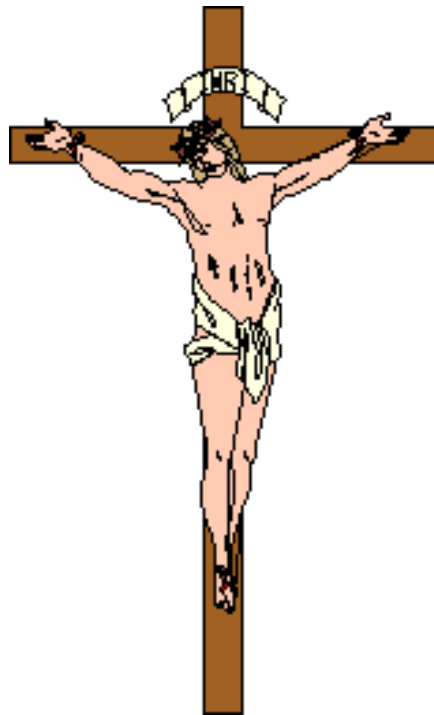


**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
13564 St. Andrews Drive
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 598-8697**

**e-mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net
website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com**



***Holy Communion Service
Third Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

PIANO DUET

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

“The Old Rugged Cross”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 296

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare the entire forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

The First Lesson is from Numbers chapter 21 verses 4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God allows judgment to fall upon them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

The Second Lesson is from Ephesians chapter 2 verses 1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 from John chapter 3 verses 14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

Jesus said: ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Bishop Murray D. Finck

“Lift Up Our Eyes, Lift Up Our Hearts”

CHOIR ANTHEM

“What Wondrous Love is This”

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L ... Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

OFFERTORY

“Amazing Grace”

OFFERING PRAYER

P Lord Jesus Christ, bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. You are the bread of life, the cup of salvation, and the host of this life-giving meal. Feed us not only with this sacred food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray in your holy 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. The table is ready. 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 send us forth to feed the world with your bounty; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life. Amen.**

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 377

“Lift High the Cross”

DISMISSAL

P Let us go in peace to share the Good News.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

played by organist

Music reprinted with Permission under One License #A-709179

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck

Organist: Sharon Heck

Flowers are given by: *Emiko Uchiyama in Honor of Her Birthday.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

<i>Presider:</i>	Bishop Murray Finck
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Jerry Brady and Sylvia Makus
<i>Reader / Prayer Leader:</i>	Beverly Anderson
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Wendy Alfageme and Phyllis Mackey

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

HOLY WEEK

- Sunday, March 24:** Palm / Passion Sunday 10:30 a.m. Communion Service including Welcome of New Members and Re-Affirmation of Faith. *Remembrance of Jesus's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem and the Passion of Christ.*
- Thursday, March 28:** Maundy Thursday 10:30 a.m. Communion Service *Remembrance of the Institution of the Lord's Supper*
- Friday, March 29:** We will be participating with other community churches for a Good Friday observance beginning at 12:00 p.m. through 3:00 p.m. hearing reflections from local church leaders and clergy, including brief homilies on the **Seven Words of Jesus** spoken from the cross. More details are forthcoming.
- Sunday, March 31:** Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m. Communion Service. *Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Redeemer Finance: March Offering through March 3, 2024

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$4,256.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	\$3,052.00

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.

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.

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

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, there are 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 fourth session on March 13th will be *A Brief History of the Lutheran and Episcopal Churches and of Redeemer and St. Theodore of Canterbury*.
- † 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 reading and discussing the *LATE-NIGHT THURSDAY FOLLOWING THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY IN JERUSALEM: The Arrest of Jesus*. 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.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.