

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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***Holy Communion Service  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 17, 2024***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## PIANO DUET

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

*“His Eye is On the Sparrow”*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 94

*“My Song is Love Unknown”*

### 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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in and with 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**

*God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.*

## **The First Lesson is from Jeremiah chapter 31 verses 31-34**

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

<sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)*

- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.
- <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- <sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
- <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

## **The Second Lesson is from Hebrews chapter 5 verses 5-10**

*Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.*

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you";

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 12 verses 20-33**

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ

## SERMON

The Rev. David Anderson

*“The Promise of the New Covenant”*

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*“Now the Green Blade Rises”*

## 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

*“As the Grains of Wheat”*

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

## 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] # 259**

*“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”*

## DISMISSAL

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

**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:** *Cedric Elmer in Memory of His Wife, Pastor Lynda Elmer, for Her Birthday on March 15.*

## THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

**Presider:** Pastor David Anderson

**Reader / Prayer Leader:** Beverly Anderson

**Financial Team:** 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 [last meeting]  
4:00 p.m. Lenten Study, Hymns, and Soup Supper – Fellowship Hall [last week]
- Thursday:** 2:30 p.m. Council Meeting
- Sunday:** Palm / Passion Sunday 10:30 a.m. Communion Service including Welcome of New Members and Re-Affirmation of Faith. This is the beginning of Holy Week!

## **HOLY WEEK**

- 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 having a meditative service on the holy day of Good Friday, 10:30 a.m. in the morning in our sanctuary. It will end in time for you to participate 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 10, 2024**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$5,916.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	\$1,392.00

## **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, Murray, 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.*

## **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 and Happy St. Patrick's Day to 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!).
- † Thank you to Pastor David Anderson for being with us today and preaching. Welcome to Redeemer and St. Theo's!
- † This Wednesday is our last Wednesday preparation class at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, 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. The fifth session on March 20<sup>th</sup> will be: *The joys and privileges of being a member of the Body of Christ and of one of his churches.*
- † Our last Lenten Devotions is this Wednesday, March 20, 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 *FRIDAY FOLLOWING THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY IN JERUSALEM: The Crucifixion of Jesus.* Come and prepare for a fulfilling Lent!
- † **HOLY WEEK Schedule** **Sunday, March 24:** Palm / Passion Sunday 10:30 a.m. Communion Service including Welcome of New Members and Re-Affirmation of Faith. This is the beginning of Holy Week!  
**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 having a meditative service on the holy day of Good Friday, 10:30 a.m. in the morning in our sanctuary. It will end in time for you to participate 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.*
- † 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.