

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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***Holy Communion Service
Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

PIANO DUET

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck
“Amazing Grace”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 108
“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

GREETING

The presiding minister begins.

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

PROCESSIONAL The Gospel Lesson from Mark chapter 11 verses 1-11

Reader: ¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them,

Pastor: "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'"

Reader: ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them,

People: "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

Pastor: ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

Reader: ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

People: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Reader: ¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The presiding minister and the assembly greet one another.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The presiding minister concludes.

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

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, we are sorry and ask you to forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P Hear the Good News of an outpouring of abundant 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 **Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

The Second Lesson is from Philippians chapter 2 verses 5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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 12-16

The passion story begins with Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This is John’s telling of that day that we read about earlier from Mark’s gospel.

¹²Five days before the Passover the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!"

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Bishop Murray Finck

“Filled Today... and Emptied Tomorrow”

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Filled with Excitement”

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P Let us pray.

P Merciful God, we thank you for these faithful friends, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may join in the responses.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you away from God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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 presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

C I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

P People of God, do you promise to support these brothers and sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The blessing is repeated for the persons affirming and reaffirming their faith

P Stir up in *[name]* the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us rejoice with these friends in Christ.

C **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L ... Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

OFFERTORY

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

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 This is the bread and the fruit of the vine 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 help us 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] # 107

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

played by organist



Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck

Organist: Sharon Heck

Flowers are given by: *Pastor Gil Moore in Memory of His Wife,
Lavona Moore.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

<i>Presider:</i>	Bishop Murray Finck
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Carmen Leslie
<i>Reader / Prayer Leader:</i>	Beverly Anderson
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Wendy Alfageme and Phyllis Mackey

THIS 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.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m. Communion Service. *Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

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 and Happy Palm Sunday to everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors. Visitors are invited to fill out a card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Everyone is invited down to the Fellowship Hall after Service for coffee, treats, and fellowship (we have tea, too!).
- † **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.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.