

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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***Holy Communion Service
Third Sunday in Lent
March 3, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

PIANO DUET *“Jesus Loves Me”* Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN LBW [Green Book] # 104
“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

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 to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

The First Lesson is from Exodus chapter 20 verses 1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 19

The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of
the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's own offenses?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verses 18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 2 verses 13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

“Free to Be”

Bishop Murray D. Finck

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Canticle of the Turning”

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

“How Great Thou Art”

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 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 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] # 415

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

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: 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
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 25, 2024

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Budgeted Monthly Expense | \$7,307.52 |
| Offering | <u>\$5,198.00</u> |
| Needed to meet expenses | \$2,109.52 |

[We did not take in our needed budget this month.]

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.

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, 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 third session on March 6th will be an Overview of Lutheran and Episcopal Theology – Part Three: *The Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion*.
- † 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 *Passover Meal and Jesus’ Betrayal*. 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.