

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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*Holy Communion Service  
Second Sunday of Easter  
April 7, 2024*

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 674

## GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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 Let us seek the healing grace and love of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C **God of grace and glory, you have brought us through the night of our human imperfection into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Our lives and our world are in need of your forgiveness. Raise us to new life in Christ, O God. Renew us as you make all things new. Rescue us from failings and fallings. Restore us by your grace, and reconcile us that we may live with you, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

P Let us rejoice with all creation! The light and love of the risen Christ cleanses us from all that would keep us from God. Jesus Christ loves us and + sets us free from the errors of our ways. Alleluia!

C **Alleluia! Amen!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C** Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays wherein we encounter the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self. From frightened and uncertain individuals we are transformed by our Living Lord, becoming a community offering open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.*

### **The First Lesson is from Acts Chapter 4 verses 32-35**

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **PSALM: Psalm 133**

*How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)*

- <sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!
- <sup>2</sup>It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron,  
flowing down upon the collar of his robe.
- <sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing:  
life for- evermore.

### **The Second Lesson is from 1 John chapter 1 verse 1 through chapter 2 verse 2**

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

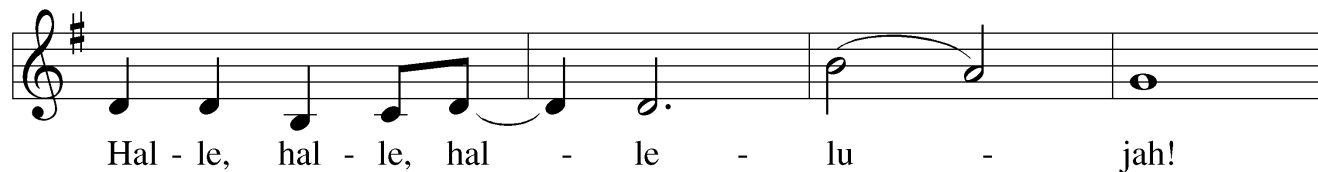
<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

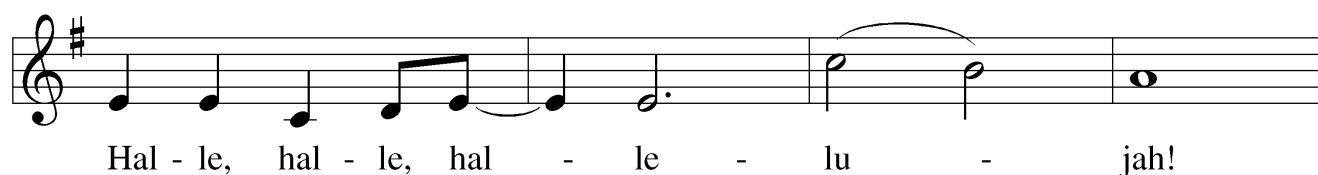
**C Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

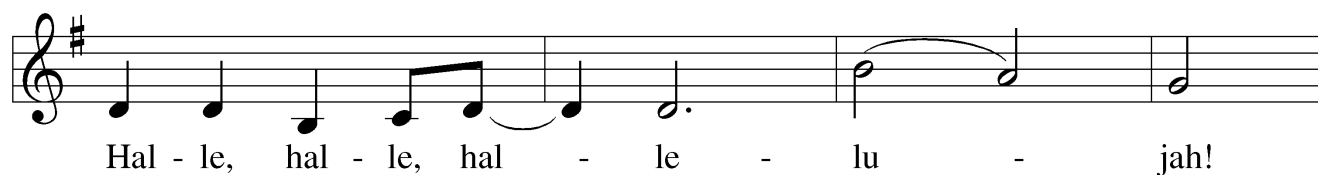
*(Congregation stands and sings “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” following the Second Reading.)*



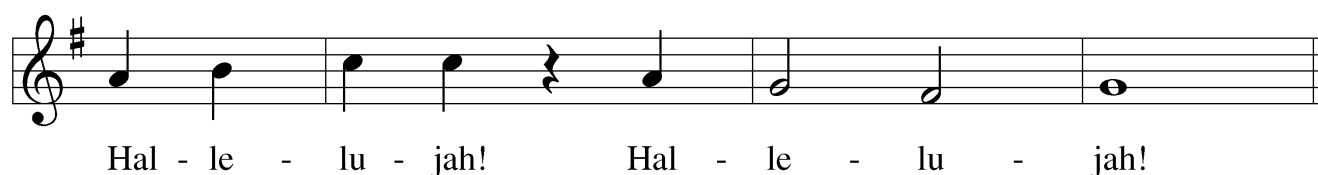
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Caribbean traditional  
Music: HALLE, HALLE, Caribbean traditional

## **The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 20 verses 19-31**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

Bishop Murray Finck

*"Living the Resurrection... Hands on Discipleship"*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"We Walk by Faith"*

## **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** ... God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

## **OFFERTORY**

*“Open Our Eyes, Lord”*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Risen Lord, you call us to believe and tell the story of your grace. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Help us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

*Communion Distribution (The Congregation is invited by the ushers to come forward to receive Communion. If you are unable to come to the altar, Communion will be brought to you in the pew. We believe Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine/juice. Anyone with any questions may speak with the Pastor. The inside circle of glasses contains grape juice.)*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**C** Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this heavenly banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

## BLESSING

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**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

**WOV [Blue Book] # 722**

## DISMISSAL

**P** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

**played by organist**

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**Interim Pastor:** Bishop Murray D. Finck

**Organist:** Sharon Heck

**Flowers are given by:** *Emiko Uchiyama.*



## **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

<i>President:</i>	Bishop Murray D. Finck
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Carmen Leslie
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sylvia Makus
<i>Reader / Prayer Leader:</i>	Nancy Anderson
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Kay Pushman and Alma Zamzow

## **THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday:** 12:00 noon Bible Study - Sanctuary

**Sunday:** 10:30 a.m. Communion Service

### **Redeemer Finance: March Offering through March 31, 2024**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$8,246.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	-\$938.00

*[We made our budget amount so the “needed to meet expenses” is a negative number – we didn’t need more for the month of March. It is the first month this year we have received gifts to equal our budgeted needs.]*

## **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 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!).
- † 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!
- † Great news: We have started our Bible Study again. We will be meeting on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon for about one hour in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to join us. Bring your Bible and maybe a friend or two! Bishop Murray Finck will be leading.
- † If you are having a little problem with hearing on Sundays, please remember that there are speakers in the ceiling light fixtures so sitting closer to one of those may help.
- † Congratulations and many blessings to our three new members, Jean Thompson, Lynne Retmier, and John Robinson as they affirmed their faith on March 24<sup>th</sup> and were welcomed into the membership of the congregation. John was also baptized on this past Sunday. Also, we give thanks to the seven members who re-affirmed their faith and their covenantal relationship with Christ and his Church. They are: Shirlene Bradrick, Betty Lucero, Carmen Leslie, Barbara Long, Kay Pushman, Jann Shaffer, and Doris Weinert.
- † 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. If you take the flowers in the plastic holders, please return the holders. We try to reuse them and are currently out of them.
- † 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 the newsletter by email, or the midweek communiqué from the pastor, please put your email address on the attendance sheet in the pew pocket and put it in the collection plate, so we can add you or correct the address we have.