

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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***Holy Communion Service  
Ascension of Our Lord Sunday  
May 12, 2024***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 328

*“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”*

## 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. We are forgiven followers of Jesus Christ who loves us dearly and + sets us free from the errors of our ways. Alleluia!

C **Alleluia! Amen!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C** Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fulfill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **WE HEAR GOD'S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*

### **The First Lesson is from Acts chapter 1 verses 1-11**

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

Luke writes: <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 93**

*Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (Ps. 93:2)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

<sup>2</sup>Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;  
you are from everlasting.

<sup>3</sup>The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;

the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup>Mightier than the sound of many waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea,  
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.

<sup>5</sup>Your testimonies are very sure,  
and holiness befits your house, O LORD,  
forever and forevermore.

**The Second Lesson is from Ephesians chapter 1 verses 15-23**

*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

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

**The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 24 verses 44-53**

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>44</sup> Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

Bishop Murray D. Finck

*"Passing the Baton"*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"*

**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**

*“A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing”*

## **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 and the sharing of the cup. The Table of the Lord is ready. All are welcome!

*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. Now send us forth from this heavenly banquet, these green pastures and still waters, 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

**LBW [Green Book] # 530**

*"Jesus Shall Reign"*

## 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:** The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

**Organist:** Sharon Heck

**Flowers are given by:** *Dale Diesslin in Honor of His Mother.*

### **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

<b><i>Presider:</i></b>	The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus
<b><i>Communion Assistant</i></b>	Carmen Leslie
<b><i>Acolyte</i></b>	Sylvia Makus
<b><i>Reader / Prayer Leader:</i></b>	Carol Costello
<b><i>Financial Team:</i></b>	Wendy Alfageme and Sylvia Makus

### **THIS WEEK**

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

Council Meeting 2:30 p.m.

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

### **Redeemer Finance: May Offering through May 5, 2024**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$1,655.00</u>
Needed to meet budget	\$5,653.00

### **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, 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, Elaine, and Rachel. 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 to everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors. A happy Mother's Day to all. 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!
- † Call on Tuesdays, after 5:00 pm, for the Leisure World Bus if you are having issues with it in regards to getting to Church on Sundays. (562) 431-6586 extension 2379.
- † Alma Zamzow has been transferred to Alamitos Belmont Rehabilitation 3901 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St.; Long Beach 90814. You can try calling her on her cell at (562) 522-6259.
- † Pastor Gil Moore is in his new apartment at 12151 Dale St. Apt. C 235; Stanton, CA 90680. His direct line at Rowntree Gardens is (714) 971-6700.
- † Bible Study will be meeting on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. We are going through Chapter 2 of the book, *Stilling the Storm* - Mark 4:35-41. Please attend: bring friends, your Bible and book, and your lunch if you wish!
- † 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.
- † 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.