

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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***Holy Communion Service  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 5, 2024***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 359

*“In Christ There is No East or West”*

## 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** O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, cherishing you above all things, we will be graced with your promises, which are far greater than anything we can desire. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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**

*This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

### **The First Lesson is from Acts chapter 10 verses 44-48**

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter advocates for those Gentiles, that they also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water

for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 98**

*Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness  
in the sight of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of  
Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
who comes to judge the earth.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

**The Second Lesson is from 1 John chapter 5 verses 1-6**

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and we respond with love for God by keeping God's commandments. Thus, the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 John chapter 15 verses 9-17**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

Jesus said: <sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Scott Fielder

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"O God Beyond All Praising"*

## **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**

*“Come, We That Love the 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 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] # 551

*“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

## 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:** *Nancy Anderson in Honor of My Daughter  
Wendy Who Now has a New Heart.*

## **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

<b><i>Presider:</i></b>	The Rev. Scott Fielder
<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:** NO Bible Study  
**Thursday:** Ascension Thursday  
**Sunday:** 10:30 a.m. Communion Service  
[Ascension Celebrated]

### **Redeemer Finance: April Offering through April 28, 2024**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$7,613.00</u>
Needed to meet budget	(\$305.00)

*This month we were gifted enough to cover our budgeted income [therefore the negative “needed to meet budget”]! Thank you to all who have continued, and even increased, your financial support of our church. A special thank you to those who have donated to our pump fundraiser. These special gifts are appreciated, especially when unforeseen things come up.*

## **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 Cinco de Mayo 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!
- † Thank you to The Rev. Scott Fielder for presiding at our service today.
- † 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.
- † Bible Study will be on pause until Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- † 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.