

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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***Holy Communion Service
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 763

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

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 Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... God of the way, God of truth, God of life.

C **Amen.**

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's love, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C God, our provider, **help us and forgive us. We often challenge your ways when they differ from ours. We are tempted to turn to our own understandings rather than trusting in you. We do not always want to hear the truth or speak it. It is sometimes difficult following your teachings and your will, and other times we grow impatient. We are sorry. We repent. Turn us always to trust in you and to listen to your truth. Share with us your forgiveness and grace, and the promises of eternal life. Amen.**

P Beloved people of God: we have the promise of God's grace and forgiveness as Christ Jesus sacrificed his life for our salvation. Jesus is the worker of miracles, and there is always more than enough mercy and love. Through the Spirit, we see and believe in the grace of God as a people forgiven and loved by the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, and promised a life with God that has no end.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, the peace which the world cannot give. Touch our hearts that we may always obey your commandments. Help us to hear your truth and speak it with our words, our deeds, and our lives. Bless us that we may live in peace and harmony, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist speaks God's truth to worldly power, and Herod has him killed. We are called, even in the face of oppression, to witness and exemplify God's justice, proclaiming God's saving love.

The First Lesson is from Amos chapter 7 verses 7-15

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.

⁷This is what the Lord GOD showed me: the LORD was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the LORD said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'"

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go be- fore the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.

The Second Lesson is from Ephesians chapter 1 verses 3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

(Congregation stands and sings “Alleluia” following the Second Reading.)

The Gospel Lesson is from Mark chapter 6 verses 14-29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those who fear the truth, who are opposed to God's holy will, and who are not open to the gospel of salvation.

¹⁴King Herod heard of the disciples' preaching, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the Baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Murray D. Finck
“Telling the Truth”

SOLO

“It is Well with My Soul”

Kay Pushman

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

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

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L ... In your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

OFFERING PRAYER

P Jesus, Bread of life, as you set this table before us and call us to this feast of plenty, accept our humble offerings. Gather what has been sown among us. Use our gifts for your good work. Strengthen us now in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body and your love for the life and sake of the world.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW [Green Book] Page 71

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

P Christ has set this table with more than enough for us all. The Lord's Table is now ready and all are welcome!

Holy Communion Distribution (The Congregation is invited by the ushers to come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you are unable to come to the altar, Holy 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 Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table, wheat and wine, the sacrifice of your body and blood for the redemption of the world. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love one another as you love us. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

P May the abundance of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon us now and forever. May God's truth always sustain us. And may the Lord bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us and be gracious to us. May the Lord God look upon us with favor and give us peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 500

"Faith of Our Fathers"

DISMISSAL

P Let us go in peace, rescued and delivered again by Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

played by organist

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Interim Pastor: The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Organist and Choir Director: Sharon Heck

Flowers are given by: *Kay Pushman in Honor of Her Birthday,
Today.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

Presider: The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Organist: Sharon Heck

Holy Communion Assistant Carmen Leslie

Acolyte Sylvia Makus

Reader / Prayer Leader: Beverly Anderson

Financial Team: Wendy Alfageme and Phyllis Mackey

THIS WEEK

Wednesday: Bible Study 12:00 Noon

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

Redeemer Finance: July Offering through July 7

Budgeted Monthly Expense \$7,308.00

Offering \$3,734.61

Needed to meet budget (\$3,573.39)

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

Barry, Jean, Kathy, Wendy, Beverly, Nancy, Evelyn, Shirlene, Jerry,
Carol, Mickey, Evelyn, Gloria, Christa, Alice, Barbara, Cedric, Lucy,
Karen, Kelly, Raymond, Dick, Marilyn, Brian, Carl, Jessica, Carol,
Rose, 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, Kathy,
Juanita, Clarence, Debbie, Joan, Doris, Linda, Bruce, Alma, Martha,
Marianne, Robert, Laura, Jim, Loretta, Ray, Patty, Delrie, Bill, Betty,
Lorna, M. Teresa, Joan, Mike, Frankie, Donna, Ernie, Eileen,
Darleen, Sharon, Danuta, Lynne, Ethan, Kurt, Brinly, McCall, Kathy,
Nayleen, Nicole, Donald, Maria, Andy, Owen, Tom, Anastasia,
Claire, Fran, Chris, Kyle, Michele, Wes, Sam, Kolt, 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.
- † Please take a moment and fill out the attendance slip found in the rack in the pews. Please place it in the offertory plate. Visitors, especially, are invited to fill out a card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!
- † Everyone is invited downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for coffee, treats, and fellowship (we have tea, too!). You are encouraged to continue to wear your name tags at fellowship so we can greet one another by name. The basket will be available downstairs so your name tag can be collected and ready to wear next week.
- † The elevator is not working. We will try to get it working again as soon as possible.
- † Call on Tuesdays, after 5:00 pm, for the Leisure World Bus if you are having issues with it in regard to getting to Church on Sundays. (562) 431-6586 extension 2379.
- † Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, July 17 to finish the study of Jesus' miracles. This week we will study 10 Miracles Jesus: *Lazarus* Chapter 10 of the workbook. The text is John 11:1-44. Bishop Murray Finck will be leading the discussion. Please attend: bring friends, your Bible and workbook, 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 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. 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.