

**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Of Leisure World  
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***Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 23, 2023***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 705

*“As the Grains of Wheat”*

## 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, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

C **Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C **Righteous God, we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C** Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

*It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day when all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

### **The First Lesson is from Genesis chapter 28 verses 10-19a**

*God's graciousness to Jacob is shown in God's revelation of the divine self to the patriarch, who is running for his life after cheating his brother Esau out of the family inheritance. Jacob promises that if God brings him back to the land, he will be loyal to God and give God a tenth of everything (vv. 20-22).*

<sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup>And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; <sup>14</sup>and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup>Know that I am with you

and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."<sup>16</sup>Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!"<sup>17</sup>And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."<sup>18</sup>So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.<sup>19</sup>He called that place Bethel.

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God**

**PSALM: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24**

*You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

<sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my resting-places

and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,

but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go then from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>even there your hand will lead me

and your right hand hold me fast.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,

and the light around me turn to night,"

<sup>12</sup>darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;

darkness and light to you are both alike.

<sup>23</sup>Search me out, O God, and know my heart;

try me and know my restless thoughts.

<sup>24</sup>Look well whether there be any wickedness in me

and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

## **The Second Lesson is from Romans chapter 8 verses 12-25**

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"**

**The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 13 verses 24-30, 36-43**

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

<sup>24</sup>Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" <sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

## **SERMON**

### **PIANO DUET**

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

*Medley of Simple Gifts and Holy, Holy, Holy*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**L 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** ... Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

## **OFFERTORY**

*“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

*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**

**P** We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## BLESSING

P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed  
+ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 723

*“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”*

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

played by organist



**Pastor:** Rev. Lisa Rotchford, (714) 833-7332

**Organist:** Sharon Heck

**Flowers are given by:** *Nancy Luebben and Bruce Young in Loving  
Memory of Our Fathers, Rusty and Dougan.*

## THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

**Presider:** TBD

**Communion Assistant** Carmen Leslie

**Reader / Prayer Leader:** Beverly Anderson

**Financial Team:** Phyllis Mackey and Kay Pushman

## THIS WEEK

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

## **Redeemer Finance: July Offering through July 16, 2023**

Budgeted Monthly Expense \$8,341.00

Offering \$4,499.00

Needed to meet expenses \$3,842.00

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Jean, Kathy, Wendy, Beverly, Dena, Nancy, Evelyn, Shirlene, Jerry, Dondi, 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, and Sands. *Please pray for our Bishop David Nagler, the victims of the Ukrainian crisis, and victims and families of all violence and natural disasters.*

*Please pray for this congregation as we continue to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. We will be having a special celebration on October 15 for our anniversary.*

Please contact the church to add people to the prayer list.

*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** Jerry Brady, **Vice-President** Wendy Alfageme, **Secretary** Nancy Anderson, **Treasurer** Phyllis Mackey, **Finance Chair** Kay Pushman

**Members at Large:** Sandy Langdale, Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Michael Vanvales, and Anne Walshe

## Announcements

- ✝ Welcome everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors! Thank you for joining us.
- ✝ 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!
- ✝ Wendy Alfageme is looking to collect any pictures of Redeemer or of the Congregation that you might be willing to share. Please give them to her or talk to her about what you have and are willing to share.
- ✝ If you are interested in formally joining Redeemer Lutheran Church, please speak with Pastor Lisa. She is starting to plan for an orientation class and a welcome service for new members.
- ✝ 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.
- ✝ We thank those who have continued to wear their masks and want everyone to know that masks are available at the entrance of the Church. We do **HIGHLY** recommend continuing masking, especially with the numbers recently increasing specifically in Leisure World. As we are the most vulnerable population and we have many within the congregation that are immunocompromised, Staff will continue masking with everyone's safety in mind. Those who elect to wear masks, should do so freely. It is the expectation that individual preferences be respected and supported for either choice with no justification required.
- ✝ Our current newsletter, if you want a printed copy, is available in the entryway. It is available online our website at: [www.redeemerasealbeach.com](http://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 in our system.

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