

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
13564 St. Andrews Drive
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 598-8697**

**e-mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net
website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com**



***Holy Communion Service
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 7, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 507

“How Firm a Foundation”

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 mystery, God of miracles, God of mercy.

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 want to challenge your ways when they differ from the ways of the world, and turn to our own understandings rather than trusting in you. We are not always ready to follow your teachings and your will. Sometimes we are impatient with you. We repent. Turn us always to trust in you. Share with us your forgiveness and grace, and promises of eternal life. Amen.**

P Beloved people of God: we have the assurance of our Father's grace and forgiveness as God continues to give us our daily bread and we are fed and nourished. Jesus is the worker of miracles, and there is always more than enough mercy and love. Through the Comforter, we see and believe in the grace of God. We are forgiven and loved by the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit, and promised a life with God that has no end.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the "between": between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

The First Lesson is from Ezekiel chapter 2 verses 1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

¹A voice said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are

impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 123

Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy. (Ps. 123:2)

¹To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

²As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God,
until you show us your mercy.

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

⁴too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.

The Second Lesson is from 2 Corinthians chapter 12 verses 2-10
Christians do not boast in their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

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 1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

¹Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Murray D. Finck

“The Challenges of Sharing our Faith”

CHOIR ANTHEM

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

SOLO

Beverly Anderson

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

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

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, and strengthen us 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, more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world as you love us. In your 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. The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord 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

WOV [Blue Book] # 755

“We All Are One in Mission”

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: *For last week: Emiko Uchiyama in Memory of My Sister in Japan.*

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: June Offering through June 30

Budgeted Monthly Expense \$7,308.00

Offering \$14,503.50

Needed to meet budget (\$7,195.50)

Due to a very generous gift from a member, we have met and exceeded our budget for the month of June. This gives us a better outlook going into the summer months but, as usual, gifts do drop off during the summer. Please, remember to continue your financial gifts to the church throughout the year.

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, Dena, 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 down 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 now working! If you have not used it before, please, to keep it operating, wait for an attendant to assist you in the use of the elevator. Press the RED button to call the elevator to the level you are on.
- † 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 10 to continue the study of Jesus' miracles. This week we will study 10 Miracles Jesus: *The Leper: Hope for the Hopeless* Chapter 9 of the workbook. The text is Luke 5:12-14 [also: Mark 1:40-45; Matthew 8:1-4]. 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.