

**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Of Leisure World  
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***Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 9, 2023***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 734

*“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”*

## 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** You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.*

### **The First Lesson is from Genesis chapter 24 verses 34-38, 42-49, 58-67**

*The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah helped to fulfill God's promise that Abraham and Sarah would become the ancestors of many nations.*

Laban, Rebekah's brother, received a visitor who said, <sup>34</sup>"I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup>The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup>And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. <sup>37</sup>My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; <sup>38</sup>but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' <sup>42</sup>I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! <sup>43</sup>I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," <sup>44</sup>and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your

camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' <sup>45</sup>Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' <sup>46</sup>She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. <sup>47</sup>Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. <sup>48</sup>Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. <sup>49</sup>Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left." <sup>58</sup>And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." <sup>59</sup>So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. <sup>60</sup>And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." <sup>61</sup>Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. <sup>62</sup>Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. <sup>63</sup>Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. <sup>64</sup>And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, <sup>65</sup>and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup>And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. <sup>67</sup>Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

**PSALM: Psalm 45:10-17**

*God has anointed you with the oil of gladness. (Ps. 45:7)*

<sup>10</sup>"Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely;  
forget your people and your father's house.

<sup>11</sup>The king will desire your beauty;  
he is your master, so bow before him.

<sup>12</sup>The city of Tyre brings tribute;  
the wealthiest of the people seek your favor."

<sup>13</sup>All glorious is the princess as she enters;  
her gown is cloth-of-gold.

<sup>14</sup>In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king;  
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.

<sup>15</sup>With joy and gladness they are brought,  
and enter into the palace of the king.

<sup>16</sup>"In place of ancestors, O king, you shall have sons;  
you shall make them princes over all the earth.

<sup>17</sup>I will make your name to be remembered  
from one generation to another;  
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever."

**The Second Lesson is from Romans chapter 7 verses 15-25a**

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11 verses 16-19, 25-30**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: <sup>16</sup>"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup>'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." <sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

Pastor Lisa Rotchford

*"Abiding in God...Always"*

**Piano Duet**

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

*"Do Lord and Amazing Grace"*

## **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've Come This Far by Faith"*

## **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

LBW [Green Book] # 469

*“Lord of All Hopefulness”*

## 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:** *Kay Pushman in Honor of Her Birthday.*

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

*President:* Pastor Lisa Rotchford  
*Communion Assistant* Carmen Leslie  
*Reader / Prayer Leader:* Beverly Anderson  
*Financial Team:* Wendy Alfageme and Phyllis Mackey

**THIS WEEK**

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

**Redeemer Finance: July Offering through July 2, 2023**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,341.00
Offering	<u>\$2325.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	\$6,016.00

## **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, 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!
- ✝ 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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