

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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***Holy Communion Service
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 11, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 197

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

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.

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 fall to temptation rather than trusting you and your wisdom. We do not always want to hear the truth, speak the truth, or to cling to the truth. It is sometimes difficult following your way and will. There are times when we grow impatient. We are sorry. We repent. Turn us always to you and help us to listen to your voice. Give us your boundless forgiveness and unending grace with your promises of new life. Amen.**

P Beloved people of God: God forgives us through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus for our salvation. Jesus brings us mercy and compassion, offering us abundant measures of grace and love. Through the Spirit, we know and believe we are fully forgiven and loved by the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, who promises us a life with God that has no end.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

Jesus says that he is the bread given for the life of the world, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what a life with Christ Jesus looks like, a life marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The purpose of our Christ-like life is giving ourselves for the other.

The First Lesson is from 1 Kings chapter 19 verses 4-8

First Kings, chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest shows that the Lord is true God. After the false prophets are destroyed, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.

⁴Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get

up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-8

Taste and see that the LORD is good. (Ps. 34:8)

¹I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

²I will glory in the LORD;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.

⁵Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.

⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!

The Second Lesson is from Ephesians chapter 4 verses 25—5:2

Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians can ever be perfect. However, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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 John chapter 6 verses 35, 41-51

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.

³⁵Jesus said to the crowd, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.

⁴⁷"Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Murray D. Finck

"Having Our Cake and Eating It, Too"

SOLO

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Elaine Lee

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 ... Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

OFFERTORY

“Baptized in Water”

OFFERING PRAYER

P Jesus, Bread of life, as you set this table of bread and wine before us and call us to this holy meal, accept our humble offerings. Gather what has been sown among us. Use our gifts for your good work. Strengthen us now in this sacred 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, and it is filled with forgiveness and promise. The Table is now ready, and all are always 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 and compassion of God, who feeds us and journeys with us, be upon us now and forever. May God's truth always sustain us. 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] # 356

"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"

DISMISSAL

P Let us go in peace, sharing the love of Christ with one another.

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: *Linda Peters in Honor of My Husband's Birthday.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

<i>Presider:</i>	The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus
<i>Organist:</i>	Sharon Heck
<i>Holy Communion Assistant</i>	Carmen Leslie
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sylvia Makus
<i>Reader:</i>	Carol Costello
<i>Prayer Leader:</i>	Kay Pushman
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Kay Pushman and Sylvia Makus

THIS WEEK

Wednesday: Bible Study 12:00 Noon
Council Meeting 1:30 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Redeemer Finance: August Offering through August 4

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$3,635.00</u>
Needed to meet budget	\$3,673.00

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, 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.

- † New members will be received into the congregation in September. If you are interested and have not made those intentions known to the pastor or congregational president, Kay Pushman, please do so at your earliest convenience.
- † The elevator is working. Please see Kay Pushman, Wendy Alfageme, or Sylvis Makus to use the elevator, even if you have used it before.
- † 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, August 14 to continue the study of the Book of Jonah. 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.