

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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Seal Beach, CA 90740
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***Holy Communion Service
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 18, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 248

“Dearest Jesus, At Your Word”

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 word. We do not always want to hear the truth, speak the truth, or to cling to the truth. It is sometimes difficult following your word, your way and your 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 Oh God, Rock of all ages, you offer us a covenant of mercy, and you provide the foundation for our lives. Ground us always in your word, and strengthen our resolve to be your faithful disciples both in our hearing and doing. Help us to live and make daily decisions according to your way and your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

We are called by our Baptism to walk in the ways of the Lord. The lesson from Deuteronomy reminds us of how closely God wishes to be in our hearts, minds, and souls. We all have a responsibility to the next generations to continue a relationship with God. The Psalm is in praise of happiness. Not the happiness of the world but the happiness found only in God through listening and acting on His direction. Paul exhorts us to share the Gospel, no matter what. For it is through the Gospel God and our salvation is revealed. The Gospel lesson is from the closing words of Jesus’ sermon on the mount, building the house on the rock and not on the sand are about hearing and obeying God's word.

The First Lesson is from Deuteronomy chapter 11 verses 18-22, 26-28

God's words and commandments were to always be the foremost guiding principles for God's faithful people.

¹⁸You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. ¹⁹Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ²⁰Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth. ²²If you will diligently observe this entire commandment that I am commanding you, loving the LORD your God, walking in all his ways, and holding fast to the Lord,

²⁶See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: ²⁷the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today; ²⁸and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn from the way that I am commanding you today, to follow other gods that you have not known.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119 (Selected Verses)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

²Happy are those who keep God's decrees,
who seek God with their whole heart,

⁴You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.

⁵O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your word!

⁹⁷Oh, how I love your law!

It is my meditation all day long.

⁹⁸Your commandment makes me wiser than those who are against
me,
for it is always with me.

¹⁰²I do not turn away from your ordinances,
for you have taught me.

¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I resist every false way.

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

The Second Lesson is from Romans chapter 1 verses 16-17

Saint Paul invites the Church in Rome to never shy away from or to be hesitant in its proclamation of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the Gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

The Holy Gospel is from Matthew chapter 7 verses 21-28

Jesus concludes his Sermon on the Mount with the following words, asking those who were following him to not only hear his words, but to live them out day by day in all they said and did.

²¹"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

²²On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' ²³Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.' ²⁴"Everyone then who hears

these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell — and great was its fall!" ²⁸Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Murray D. Finck

"Whose Voice Do We Follow?"

Reflection on *"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"*

PIANO DUETS

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

“Simple Gifts” and “Holy, Holy, Holy”

*[This medley of Simple Gifts and Holy, Holy, Holy is played in
memory of Jerry Brady]*

"Praise to the Lord"

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

“Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet”

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] # 294

"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

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: *Emiko Uchiyama*

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>	Nancy Anderson
<i>Prayer Leader:</i>	Carol Costello
<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 11

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$5,505.00</u>
Needed to meet budget	\$2,803.00

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.
- † We wish to thank those who contributed to the Memorial Service for Jerry Brady. There were people who worked diligently in preparing, serving, and cleaning up both before and after the Service. Also, thank you to all who attended the Memorial Service. We hope it was a comfort to the family to know how much Jerry was loved and appreciated here at Redeemer.
- † 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.
- † There was an error in last week's bulletin. The Church Council meets **THIS Wednesday, August 21**, at 1:30 p.m. NOT this past week as stated in last week's bulletin.
- † 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 21 from noon to about 1:30 p.m. 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.



Memorial Donations

Memorial donations are a lovely way to remember those who have joined the Church Triumphant and rest in the arms of Jesus. Below are those who have donated to our Memorial Fund during this year.

Wendy Alfageme

*Victoria Louie
Alma Zamzow*

In Memory of Dena Anderson

In Memory of Jerry Brady

In Memory of Dondi Buchrucker

In Memory of Jerry Brady