

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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***Holy Communion Service
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 25, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 546

“When Morning Gilds the Sky”

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 and turn away. 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 Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat and drink the sacrifice of his flesh and blood. Unable to comprehend the spiritual meaning of this, some followers peel off. This is the backdrop in John's Gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom should we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the Gospel.

The First Lesson is from Joshua chapter 24 verses 1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, “covenant” means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

¹Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴"Revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the

Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous. (Ps. 34:15)

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from everyone.

²⁰God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

The Second Lesson is from Ephesians chapter 6 verses 10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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 56-69

The words sound harsh and graphic. This is a "hard saying" of Jesus. Some of his followers are offended as is he encourages them to take his sacrifice into themselves. The followers who return to their old lives cannot comprehend these difficult words. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows Jesus' words are the words of "life," and he asks a most important question: "To whom shall we go?"

Jesus said, ⁵⁶"Those who take my flesh and my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever consumes me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But

among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Murray D. Finck

"Choosing Where We Will Abide"

DUET

Kay Pushman and Susan Sinner

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

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

Guitar Solo

Mickey Costello

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 himself—his very life—his forgiveness and promises. 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] # 503

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

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: *Betty Lucero for John Robinson's Birthday.
And Carol Costello.*

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: NO Bible Study

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Redeemer Finance: August Offering through August 18

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$7,064.00</u>
Needed to meet budget	\$244.00

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, 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!) where August Birthdays will be celebrated. 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.
- † Pastor Gilbert Moore died on August 19th with his family with him. The family is having his Celebration of Life on Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with a reception to follow the memorial service at Redeemer Lutheran Church. We hold Pastor Gil's family, friends, and the many people who knew and loved him in our hearts and prayers.
- † Please let us know if you are having medical issues, so we can offer pastoral care and our prayers during your difficult times. Speak to a member of the Church Council or call the office number: (562) 598-8697.
- † 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 **NOT** meet on Wednesday, August 28th. We will meet again on September 4th when we will spend about 5-week study titled: *“The Decalogue – The Ten Commandments”* looking in-depth at Commandments. Bishop Murray Finck will be leading the discussion. Please attend: bring friends, your Bible, and your lunch if you wish!
- † *“God’s Work. Our Hands.”* will be taking place on Sunday, September 8th collection time is planned from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will again be collecting non-perishable foods to donate to Lutheran Social Services for their food pantry. We are looking for volunteers willing to help with: getting the word out, setting up, collecting food, counting/weighing the food, delivering the food, and clean-up. EVERYONE is encouraged to get a yellow *“God’s Work. Our Hands.”* shirt to wear, especially on September 8th.
- † 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. We are looking into improving the sound system for the Church Sanctuary.
- † 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.

Happy Birthday to All Our August Birthdays:



Susan Avila, Emil Miorelli, Dee Worku, Martha Ziegler, Anne Walshe, Ken Lancaster, Juanita Townsend, Shirlene Bradrick, Bruce Young, Flo Nesland, Delrie Hobbs, Ray Friedrichsen, Delrie Hobbs, John Robinson, and Steven Tegtmeier.