

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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***Holy Communion Service
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 4, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

PIANO DUETS

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck
“Amazing Grace” and “Do Lord”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 701
“What Feast of Love”

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 the way, God of truth, God of life.

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 along 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, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven. Help us to share this holy heavenly bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

The First Lesson is from Exodus chapter 16 chapter 2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

²³So God commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven,

²⁴raining down manna upon them to eat
and giving them grain from heaven.

²⁵So mortals ate the bread of angels;
God provided for them food enough.

²⁶The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and powerfully led out the south wind,

²⁷raining down flesh upon them like dust
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,

²⁸letting them fall in the midst of the camp
and round about the dwellings.

²⁹So the people ate and were well filled,
for God gave them what they craved.

The Second Lesson is from Ephesians chapter 4 verses 1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." ⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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 24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were beside the sea, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

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

A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Murray D. Finck

“The Feast”

SOLO *“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”* Lisa Nunley

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

“Lord Speak to Us, That We May Speak”

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] # 343

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

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: *Doris Weinert in Honor of My Daughter's and Granddaughter's Birthdays.*

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>	Kay Pushman
<i>Prayer Leader:</i>	Kay Pushman
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Sylvia Makus and Kay Pushman

THIS WEEK

Wednesday: Bible Study 12:00 Noon

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

Redeemer Finance: July Offering through July 28

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$6,393.61</u>
Needed to meet budget	(\$914.39)

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.
- † The elevator is working. Please see Kay Pushman, Wendy Alfageme, or Sylvis Makus to use the elevator, even if you have used it before.
- † We have received word that Jerry Brady has entered the Church Triumphant last Sunday. Please keep his family and friends in prayer. We will let you know of any planned service as we get the information.
- † 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 7 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.