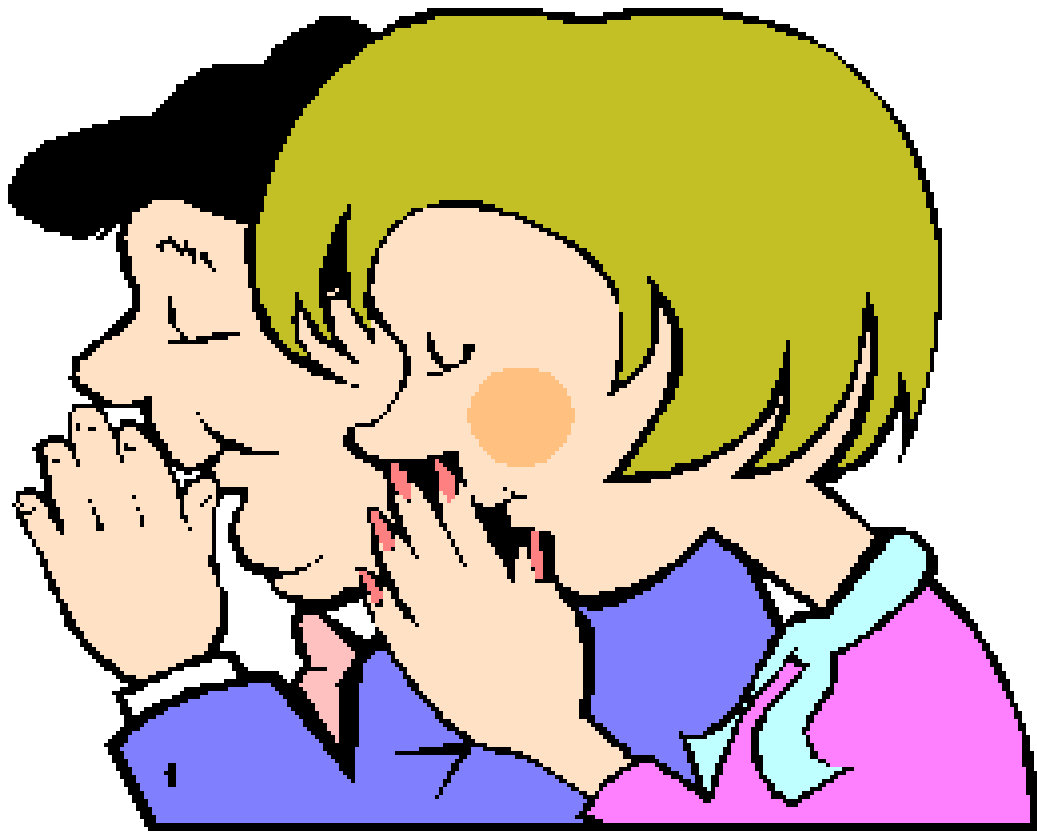


**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Of Leisure World  
13564 St. Andrews Drive  
Seal Beach, CA 90740  
(562) 598-8697**

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*Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 10, 2023*

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 551

*“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

## 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 God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C **Amen.**

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C **Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C** O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

### **The First Lesson is from Exodus chapter 12 verses 1-14**

*Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the

goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God**

## **PSALM: Psalm 149**

*Sing the LORD's praise in the assembly of the faithful. (Ps. 149:1)*

- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.
- <sup>2</sup>Let Israel rejoice in their maker;  
let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.
- <sup>3</sup>Let them praise their maker's name with dancing;  
let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.
- <sup>4</sup>For the LORD takes pleasure in the people  
and adorns the poor with victory.
- <sup>5</sup>Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;  
let them sing for joy on their beds.
- <sup>6</sup>Let the praises of God be in their throat  
and a two-edged sword in their hand,
- <sup>7</sup>to wreak vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples,
- <sup>8</sup>to bind their kings in chains  
and their nobles with links of iron,
- <sup>9</sup>to inflict on them the judgment decreed;  
this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah!

## **The Second Lesson is from Romans chapter 13 verses 8-14**

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"**

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**The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 18 verses 15-20**

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>15</sup>"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

Pastor Brad Stienstra

*"Presence With a Purpose"*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"I Come with Joy"*

## **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** ... Merciful God,  
**C** receive our prayer.

## **OFFERTORY**

*“Seek Ye First”*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**



## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

*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**

**C** Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

**P** The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**WOV [Blue Book] 721**

*“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”*

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

**played by organist**



**Pastor:** Rev. Lisa Rotchford

**Organist:** Sharon Heck

**Flowers are given by:** *Barbara Lang in Honor of Her Birthday.*

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

***Presider:*** Pastor Brad Stienstra

***Communion Assistant*** Carmen Leslie

***Reader / Prayer Leader:*** Carol Costello

***Financial Team:*** Wendy Alfageme and Doris Weinert

**THIS WEEK**

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

**Redeemer Finance: September Offering through September 3, 2023**

Budgeted Monthly Expense \$8,341.00

Offering \$1,376.00

Needed to meet expenses \$6,965.00

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## **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, Michael Vanvales, and Anne Walshe

## Announcements

- ✝ Welcome everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors! Thank you for joining us.
- ✝ Thank you to Pastor Brad Stienstra for Presiding for today's Service.
- ✝ Pastor Lisa is still in the hospital and still having tests run. We will let you know when we have more information. Please keep her and Collette in prayer.
- ✝ Choir rehearsal has begun each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. If you are interested in joining the choir, please speak to Sharon Heck, our organist.
- ✝ We are in need of help with two important celebrations: Pastor Gil Moore's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 17 [next Sunday] (set-up will be September 16) and our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 15 (set-up will be October 14). There are sign-up sheets in the entryway. We also need people willing to bring food for both of these events. Sign-up sheets are also available for this.
- ✝ At this time, we are encouraging people to consider wearing a mask again, especially in Church, due to the spike in Covid-19 cases. Initial symptoms are headache and fever. Please consult with your doctor if you are experiencing these or other symptoms. We continue to have masks available in the entryway for your use. We need to join together to keep everyone safe and healthy.
- ✝ 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!
- ✝ 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.
- ✝ Our current newsletter, if you want a printed copy, is available in the entryway. It is available online on 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.