

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
13564 St. Andrews Drive
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 598-8697**

**e-mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net
website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com**



***Holy Communion Service
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 15, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 377

“Lift High the Cross”

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin and ask God for healing and forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. Wanting our way over others causes conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We often place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us. Draw near to us with your grace, and help us to always follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God promises to forgive our iniquities and to remember our sin no more. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing and love, our sins are forgiven.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

This is the third week in our sermon series based upon the appointed readings from the Epistle of James. Our lessons today say much about the words we speak and their power to encourage, teach, give witness and strengthen one another; but at the same time, we know, ill-chosen words can hurt and destroy relationships and human harmony. Our focus today is on James, chapter 3, and we also hear Mark's version of Peter's profession as this disciple professes the important message of Jesus' mission to save the world.

The First Lesson is from Isaiah chapter 50 verses 4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable images in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the faithful servant in the face of adversity. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
²for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.
³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came
upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
 "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
 our God is full of compassion.
⁶The LORD watches over the innocent;
 I was brought low, and God saved me.
⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
 for the LORD has dealt well with you.
⁸For you have rescued my life from death,
 my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;
⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD
 in the land of the living.

Congregation: *Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation and the Gospel reading, if you are able.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

The Gospel Lesson is from Mark chapter 8 verses 27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

C Praise to you, O Christ

Congregation: Please be seated.

The Second Lesson is from James chapter 3 verses 1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.



¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

SERMON

The Rev. Murray D. Finck

“The Power of Words and the Things We Say”

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

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.

*the word “*catholic*” in the creed means “*universal*.” It is the original word used as this profession of faith was adopted by the early Christian Church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L ... Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

OFFERTORY

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

OFFERING PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. Bless this Holy Table as you open your hands and satisfy the desires of all living beings. Bless also these gifts and our lives which we offer to you. Help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW [Green Book] Page 71

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P This is Jesus' table and all are always welcome. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

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.)

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

C Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 780

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

played by organist

Music reprinted with Permission under One License #A-709179

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Interim Pastor: The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus
Organist and Choir Director: Sharon Heck
Flowers are given by: *Redeemer Congregation in Memory of
Pastor Gil Moore.*

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>	Elaine Lee
<i>Financial Team:</i>	Wendy Alfageme and Doris Weinert

THIS WEEK

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

Redeemer Finance: September Offering through September 8

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$7,308.00
Offering	<u>\$4,522.00</u>
Needed to meet budget	(\$2,786.00)

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.

Victoria Louie	Memory of Dondi Buchrucker
Wendy Alfageme	In Memory of Dena Anderson
Wendy Alfageme	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Wendy Alfageme	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Alma Zamzow	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Nancy Anderson	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Flo Nesland	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Cedric Elmer	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Barry Thompsen	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Barry Thompsen	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Doris Weinert	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Kay Pushman	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Kay Pushman	In Memory of Jerry Brady
The Rev. Murray and Rhoda Finck	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
The Rev. Murray and Rhoda Finck	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Ronald and Debra Neustadt	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Walter and Melba Doering	In Memory of Gilbert Moore

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, Rachel and Mike. 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.
- † 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 on September 29th. If you are interested and have not made those intentions known to the pastor or congregational president, Kay Pushman, please do so.
- † 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 September 18th from noon to about 1:15 p.m. when we will be continuing a 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!

- † 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.