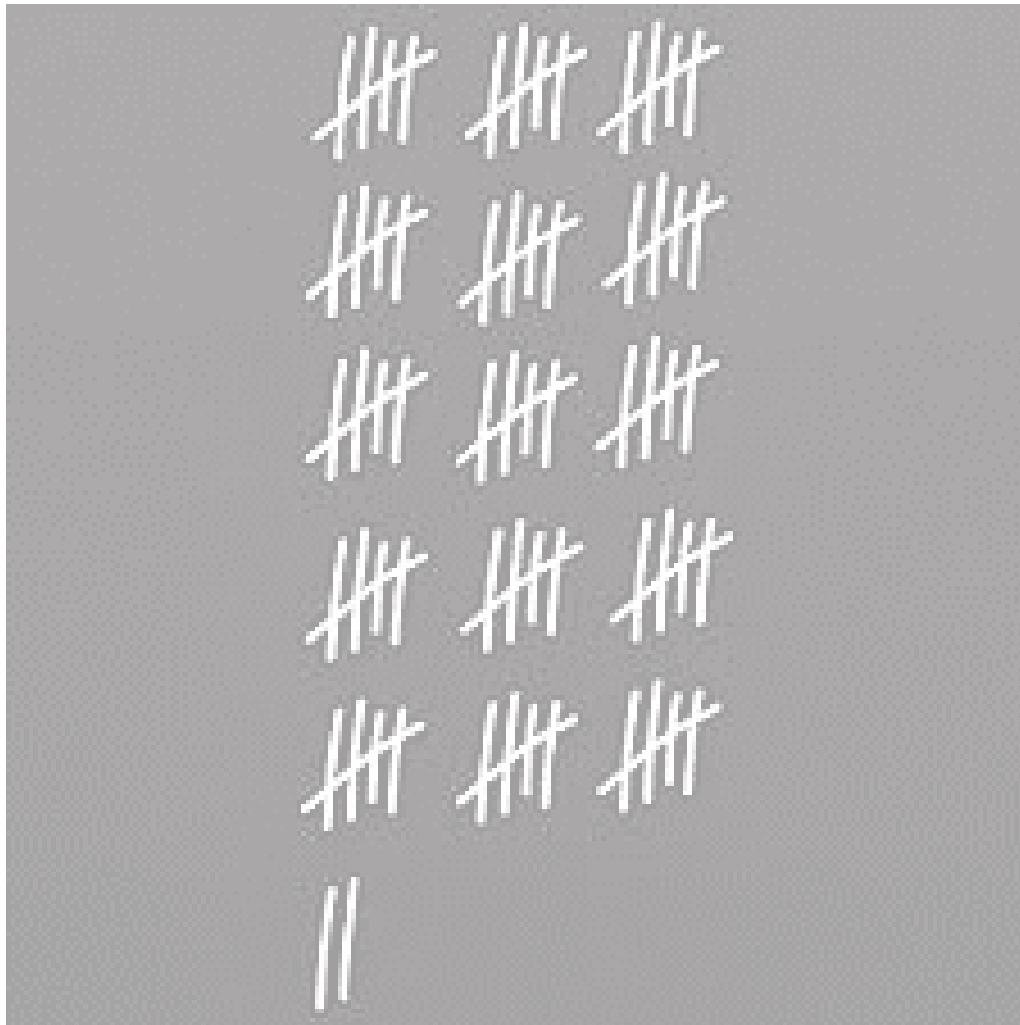


**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
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***Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Pastor Gil Moore's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination Celebration  
September 17, 2023***

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] #196

*“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”*

## 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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

### **The First Lesson is from Genesis chapter 50 verses 15-21**

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured

them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

**PSALM: Psalm 103: 1-13**

*LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)*

- <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- <sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—
- <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;
- <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
- <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- <sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
- <sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- <sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
- <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- <sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
- <sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

## **The Second Lesson is from Romans chapter 14 verses 1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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 21-35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"  
<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.  
<sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their

lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

Bishop Murray Finck

*"We Are the Lord's"*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*

*Lisa Nunley Soloist*

**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**

*“Finlandia”*

## **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.)*

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

*Soloist*

*“Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”*

*Lisa Nunley*



## **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**

**LBW [Green Book] #552**

*“In Thee is Gladness”*

## **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:** *Pastor Gil Moore in Honor of His 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday.*

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

***President:*** Bishop Murray Finck

***Communion Assistant*** Carmen Leslie

***Reader / Prayer Leader:*** Margo Geesing

***Financial Team:*** Phyllis Mackey and Sylvia Makus

**THIS WEEK**

**Thursday:** 2:30 p.m. Council Meeting

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

**Redeemer Finance: September Offering through September 10, 2023**

Budgeted Monthly Expense \$8,341.00

Offering \$3,633.00

Needed to meet expenses \$4,708.00

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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 in this special celebration of Pastor Gil Moore.
- ✝ There will be a luncheon reception after Service in honor of Pastor Gil Moore in celebration of his 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination and his 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- ✝ Thank you to Bishop Murray Finck 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.
- ✝ We are in need of help with one more important celebration: 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 this event. 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.redeemersealbeach.com](http://www.redeemersealbeach.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.