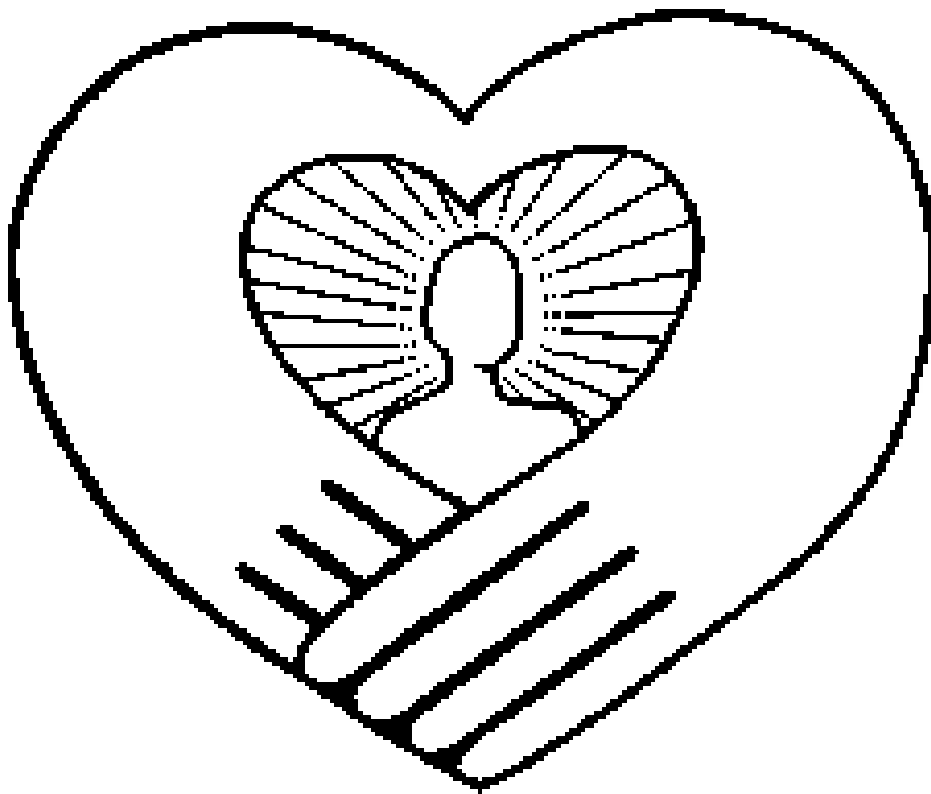


**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
13564 St. Andrews Drive
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 598-8697**

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



***Holy Communion Service
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 22, 2024***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

WOV [Blue Book] # 719

“God is Here”

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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

Today we hear James call the church to humility while he warns against selfish ambition. In the Gospel reading, the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to illustrate his teaching, he puts in front of them a child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

The First Lesson is from Jeremiah chapter 11 verses 18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 54

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me,
and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

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 9 verses 30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is humble servanthood.

³⁰Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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 13—4:3, 7-8a
The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

3:13 Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant and lie about the truth. ¹⁵ This is not wisdom that comes down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

4:1 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ² You want something and do not have it, so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it, so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴ Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose that the scripture speaks to no purpose? Does the spirit that God caused to dwell in us desire envy? ⁶ But God gives all the more grace; therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. ¹⁰ Humble

yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters.

Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another speaks evil against the law and judges the law, but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. So who, then, are you to judge your neighbor?

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.” ¹⁴ Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring.

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your

arrogance; all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it commits sin.

SERMON

The Rev. Murray D. Finck

“God Yearns for Humble Hearts”

CHOIR ANTHEM

“All Are Welcome”

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

Guitar Solo

Mickey Costello

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. All is ready 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 grace and mercy 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] # 649

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

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: *No Requests.*

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>\$7,888.00</u>
Needed to meet budget	(\$580.00)

We thank everyone for their generosity. The memorial tributes have been a blessing.

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
Linda Peters	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Juanita Townsend	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Alma Zamzow	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Nancy Anderson	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Delbert and Lisa Nunley	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Phyllis Mackey	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Sylvia Makus	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Sylvia Makus	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Sylvia Makus	In Memory of Rev. Nancy Sinclair
Sylvia Makus	In Memory of Dena Anderson
Jerry and Norma Kanoy	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Randy and Jeanne Kanoy	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Harold Kriesel	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Doris Weinert	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Barbara Schuyler	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Gene Vegaly	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Joan Williamson	In Memory of Gilbert Moore

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, Mike, Jesus, Richard, and Kelsey. 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.

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

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.
- † There are flyers on the bulletin board in the entryway for St. Luke's annual Medieval Brass Rubbing and Docent Talk. Pick one up if you are interested.
- † 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 25th 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.