

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
Of Leisure World
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***Celebration, Worship, and Communion Service
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023***

PRELUDE

played by organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] #469

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

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 Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

INTRODUCTION

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

The First Lesson is from Exodus chapter 16 verses 2-15

Faced with hunger in the wilderness, the Israelites longed for life back in Egypt and wished they had never left. Then God miraculously and graciously gave them quails and manna to eat.

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." ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In

the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him — what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." 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 105:1-6, 37-45

Make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples. Hallelujah! (Ps. 105:1, 45)

¹Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

²Sing to the LORD, sing praises,
and speak of all God's marvelous works.

³Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴Search for the strength of the LORD;
continually seek God's face.

⁵Remember the marvels God has done,
the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,

⁶O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

³⁷You led out your people with silver and gold;
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

³⁸Egypt was glad to see them go,
because they were afraid of them.

³⁹You spread out a cloud for a covering
and a fire to give light by night.

⁴⁰They asked, and you brought quail,
and satisfied them with bread from heaven.

⁴¹You opened the rock, and water flowed,
so the river ran in the dry places.

⁴²For you remembered your holy word
and Abraham your servant.

⁴³So you led forth your people with gladness,
your chosen with shouts of joy.

⁴⁴You gave your people the lands of the nations,
and they took the fruit of others' toil,

⁴⁵that they might keep your statutes
and observe your teachings. Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson is from Philippians chapter 1 verses 21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20 verses 1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made

them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Kelly Frankiewicz, M.Div.

"God's Gracious Generosity"

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

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

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

LBW [Green Book] #397

“O Zion, Haste”

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: Eric Nelson

Flowers are given by: *Mike Geesing in Honor of Margo Geesing's Birthday.*

Mike and Margo Geesing in Honor of Aimee Geesing's 1st Birthday.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

Presider: Jerry Brady

Preaching: Kelly Frankiewicz, M.Div.

Communion Assistant Carmen Leslie

Reader / Prayer Leader: Carol Costello

Financial Team: Wendy Alfageme and Sylvia Makus

THIS WEEK

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

Redeemer Finance: September Offering through September 17, 2023
Is not available at this time.

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 60th 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 to Jerry Brady for Presiding for today's Service.
- ✝ Thank you to Kelly Frankiewicz, M.Div. for Preaching at 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 60th 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.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.

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