



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
13564 St. Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740
Phone (562) 598-8697; FAX (562) 598-8697
e-mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net

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Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Oh, Lord, We Trust in You”

As we begin June, we are still in the Easter Season, and we continue to hear from the Gospel of John about the final days of Jesus’s life walking the earth. Jesus gives his followers those final messages that they are to take and carry on Jesus’s mission: unity within the community in faith and action, loving one another, trusting in the voice and direction from the Holy Spirit, recognizing Jesus in us as His followers in our actions, and focusing on doing the works God call us to.

The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 17 verses 20-26

In the final moments in the Gospel of John before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus speaks a chapter-long prayer for his followers. In this concluding section, Jesus prays for unity among his followers. The unity sought for all his believers is modeled on the relationship between the Father and the Son: The Son is one with the Father, just as we, as followers of Jesus, should be united in faith and action.

The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 14 verses 8-17, 25-27

The second Sunday of June we have the Day of Pentecost. Happy Birthday to the Church!! In this Gospel from John, we have the disciples asking Jesus to show them the Father. He carefully explains that if you see Him, you see the Father. He also reminds them that you should know him through Jesus’s own works. Jesus makes two promises: first, to give what is asked of him in his name. The second is the promise of sending the Advocate and reminds them that he is always true to his word. We as followers are called to understand the truth of this. The Father and Jesus are one. He is always truthful to his word. We know him, and his followers, by their works. We have the help he sent – the Advocate – the Holy Spirit who is at work still within all of us.

The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 16 verses 12-15

The third Sunday of June is Father’s Day and gives us our final Gospel lesson from John and is The Holy Trinity Sunday (it is a day full of celebrations). Here Jesus tries to reassure his followers that, although he may leave them, he will not leave them alone. He again promises his followers the Spirit to guide them and reassures that He and the Father are one, and that the

Spirit is one with them. This Gospel lesson is about faith and trust. We need to have faith and trust in the promises that Jesus gives us. We all have the grace of the Spirit – we just need to listen to it!

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 8 verses 26-39

By the fourth Sunday of June, we return to the Gospel of Luke. We jump back in with the story of Legion. We have Jesus sending the Legion of demons into pigs and then the pigs off a cliff to drown. The demons identify Jesus as, “*Jesus, Son of God Most High*” which inclines the people of the town to fear Jesus and ask him to leave. He does but sends the one he healed back to share what Jesus has done. What should we get from this?!? First, that even the demons know who Jesus is and we should also recognize him. Second, that even when sent away, Jesus still finds a way to send the message of God’s love – through the one he healed – and through us, today.

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 9 verses 51-62

The last Sunday of June we have two stories. The first one is that Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and needs to pass through a Samaritan town but they would not welcome him. Rather than destroying the town as James and John wanted to, he merely turned aside and went another way. We need to remember this when we too are not welcomed because of our belief but we also need to be aware when we are not being welcoming to those who are different. The second story is about people who are called to follow but find something else they must do before they can follow. Jesus’s response, “*Whoever puts his hand to the plow but keeps looking back is unfit for the reign of God.*” We need to remember to stay focused as we are called to discipleship. We are to be focused on spreading the Word of God, and sharing God’s love with others. We need to keep our eyes on the goal: the Reign of God and building His Kingdom.