



**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](mailto:redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net)

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**Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing**

**“The Turning of the Seasons”**

We are coming to the end of the Sundays of Easter and beginning the long Pentecost season in May. All the Gospel lessons are from the Gospel of John, except for Ascension Thursday, all occur the night of the Last Supper and before his arrest, except Trinity Sunday. It seems odd that the Church would pick Gospel lessons for the end of Easter Time from the beginning of The Three Days. Perhaps it is to emphasize the need to go through the one to get to the other.

**May 5, 2024 – Sixth Sunday of Easter** John 15:9-17

In the Gospel lesson we have new definitions for words we use commonly that give us new directions. The word COMMANDMENT now means LOVE. *Don't blame me – talk to Jesus!* Jesus states that if you love him, you will show this love by following his commandment. What was Jesus' commandment? Love one another. This is also the core of the Ten Commandments, the eight Beatitudes, and the Greatest Commandment. It is what it means to be Christian.

**May 9, 2024 – Ascension of Our Lord** Luke 24:44-53 [We will be celebrating the Ascension of Our Lord on May 12<sup>th</sup>]

On Ascension Thursday Jesus leaves his followers with a commission, a blessing, and a promise. He commissioned them to preach the Gospel – that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached to all nations. This is continuing today through the works of the church and each of us. He blesses them as he does us at baptism and when we join in the Holy Sacrifice of the Liturgy and Communion. And he made the promise to send the power from on high [the Holy Spirit] which we were blessed to receive at baptism. The commission, blessing, and promise has continued throughout the ages because of the power of Jesus to fulfill them.

**May 12, 2024 – Seventh Sunday of Easter** John 17:6-19

The second Sunday of May is Mother's Day! Happy Mother's Day to all. We again hear Jesus praying, not for himself before his death, but for his people. He reminds the Father that these were entrusted to him and he has kept them faithfully. Jesus believed in the truth and love of the Father for both himself and his followers. He prayed not for the absence of problems or harm but rather for protection of their faith in him, in his teachings, and in the promise of eternal life; and by extension in the Father. He prays that they will remain obedient and faithful especially through challenges to their faith, evil times, and suffering. We too are blessed by this prayer. God gives us strength and love and faith to depend on during good times and bad.

**May 19, 2024 – Day of Pentecost** John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

The third Sunday of May is Pentecost Sunday. Happy Birthday to the Church! Jesus promises to send THE Advocate [the Holy Spirit]. Advocate: one who pleads for or in behalf of another; intercessor. When the Spirit speaks, he speaks with the direction of the Father and the Son. There are 32 names of the Spirit in Scripture. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, knowledge, right judgment, understanding, courage, piety, and fear of the Lord. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The Spirit is a powerful guide in our faith life.

**May 26, 2024 – The Holy Trinity** John 3:1-17

The fourth Sunday of May is Trinity Sunday. This is one of those great and simple mysteries of faith, like the Eucharist, that cannot be explained or proved, it just has to be believed. There is one God. There are Three Persons in God. Each Individually God. All together God. But not three gods. According to legend, Saint Patrick used a shamrock to explain about God. The shamrock has three leaves on each stem. Saint Patrick told the people that the shamrock was like the idea of the Trinity, that in the one God there are three divine beings: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. But it doesn't EXPLAIN God. You really can't prove or explain God. It is simply an act of faith to believe in God. This Sunday reminds us that there IS a Trinity and our belief in the Trinity that is God, makes us children of God through our baptism.

*So, we end Easter Time with two great celebrations, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. As we go out of Easter Time, we are again reminded, through the Gospel lessons, of the directives that are repeated from the beginning of every Lent: care for others and practice loving others (almsgiving), preach the Gospel in all you do and say and encourage repentance, and pray in faith, always. They are guidelines to continue as we enter the time after Pentecost.*