



REDEEMER

WINTER HAVEN

To all who are weary and desire rest, to all who mourn and long for comfort, to all who sin and need a Savior, Redeemer opens wide her doors with a welcome from King Jesus the mighty Friend of sinners, the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the indefensible.



May 5, 2024 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Season of the Cross: Gold for Eastertide

All the hopes and expectations of Christians are realized in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, making Easter the most celebrative day of the church year. Because the good news of Easter can hardly be contained in a single day's celebration, Easter is only the first of fifty days of Eastertide—the season leading up to Pentecost. This season is designed for extended celebration, exploring the ramifications of Easter for the redemption of all creation, and for joyful Christian living.

Call to Worship: Psalm 57

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reminds us of who God is and what He expects from us.

Leader: My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beats - men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords. My heart is steadfast, O God; I will awake and sing! Awake, my glory! ...I will give thanks to you, O Lord. I will sing praises to you.

People: For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds!

Leader: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

Song of Ascent

The first song we sing together guides us as we "go up" or approach the presence of God to worship Him. This song is meant to rouse us to worship and awaken our hearts.

All Creatures of Our God and King

Reading of the Law: John 15:18-20

While the law cannot justify us or make us righteous; it is a teacher given to lead us to Christ, the fulfiller of the law.

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours."

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

We pray together, praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

Assurance of Pardon: 1 Peter 2:20-25; 4:12-16

We read God's Word together and are reminded that grace and mercy are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls...

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

Greeting

In Jesus, we have not only been reconciled to God, we have also been reconciled to one another. Therefore, we greet one another as brothers and sisters.

Songs of Praise and Celebration

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done to save us

Great Things
Build My Life

Worship Through Giving: Give Online at redeemerwh.org/give

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of this church and the kingdom of God.

Kids' Worship Dismissal

*Children **through kindergarten** are dismissed for kids' worship.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

We again express in prayer our gratitude to God for what he has done and ask him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and the world.

Proclamation of God's Word

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.

Matthew 5:1-2, 10-16

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontus Pilate, was crucified dead and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

The ritual meal of Communion is a sign and seal of the grace we have in Jesus. That is, it symbolizes the work Christ did for our salvation (sign) and communicates the grace and mercy we have been given (seal) as a result of His death and resurrection.

Sing to Jesus

Song of Response & Sending

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

My Worth is Not in What I Own

Benediction

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
May the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
May the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,
Both now and forevermore. Amen.

Proclamation of God's Word

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying... 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Pg. 809 (Matthew 5:1-2, 10-16 ESV)

Resources

Rebecca DeYoung, *Glittering Vices*

Peter Kreeft, *Back to Virtue*

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Sermon on the Mount*

Will Willimon, *Sinning Like a Christian*

Discussion Questions

1. Prayerfully reflect on your heart, circumstances, relationships, etc. How did you "come" into worship today?
2. Where did the gospel "dwell in you richly" in the service today? In the prayers? In the singing? In the sermon?
3. Specifically, how were you led to turn from sin and trust in Jesus?
4. What is the one thing from the sermon this morning that you would most want to pass on to someone else?

Sermon Series: The Beatitudes: Kingdom People

Sermon Title: The Persecuted

Date: May 5, 2024

Hook: *Have you ever been made fun of or disadvantaged because of your faith?*

I. PERSECUTION

"An index of the Church's fidelity to her master is her indigestibility. When the world accepts the Church, the Church is no longer the Church." - Peter Kreeft

II. GLUTTONY

"A glutton is one who raids the icebox for a cure for spiritual malnutrition." - Frederick Buechner

III. THE KINGDOM

"The gospel of the kingdom is that no one is beyond beatitude, because the rule of heaven is available to all." - Dallas Willard

Application: *"We reject the comfortable conformism of fitting into whatever the majority is doing, and we take instead the nonconforming narrow way of living out the difficult truths requiring faith and love." – Eugene Peterson*



THE GOSPEL IN

2 Corinthians

Gospel Paradoxes

Second Corinthians is filled with the astounding paradoxes of the gospel. Rather than a well-ordered theological treatise (like Romans or Ephesians), we find a letter that stylistically is somewhat free-flowing. Yet it is overflowing with the apostle's gospel-love for his readers. Though this can sometimes make the argument of the book difficult to follow, the unique historical setting of the book allows the modern reader to see how Paul applies the gospel in the moment. He is using the real-life situation of his audience in order to apply the truths of the gospel in real time. As a physician cleans and bandages a wound, Paul addresses the contamination of the Corinthians' foul hearts and applies the healing balm of the gospel.

The primary occasion for the book (false teaching) provides Paul an opportunity to demonstrate the contrast between the gospel and the prevailing cultural story of his day. Whereas the false apostles are concerned with external qualifications, Paul focuses on the internal heart change brought about by the Spirit. Whereas his opponents are concerned with self-commendation by the use of rhetoric, Paul is characterized by a self-effacing, simple presentation of the truth of the gospel in word and deed. Similarly, the book is effective in unmasking our own cultural idols of wealth, power, and comfort.

The theme of gospel paradoxes appears frequently throughout the book: in Christ, we are comforted in affliction, rich in poverty, and strong in weakness. Gospel comparisons also provide needed encouragement: God's promises are more permanent than our momentary trials, and our future life is more certain than our present circumstances. We can boast in our suffering, knowing that God uses it as a crucible to produce humility and true strength. We can reconcile because we have been undeservedly accepted and restored). We can give generously because we have received the self-giving love of Jesus.

From *The Gospel Transformation Bible*,
"The Gospel in 2 Corinthians"

Announcements

Officer Nominations: We have begun the process of nominations for the offices of elder and deacon. Please take the time to read and pray over the qualifications for elder & deacon submitting a nomination. You can find that information and submit an online nomination at: redeemerwh.org/nominations. **Nominations will end May 31.**

Water Day: During the summer our Children's Ministry is hosting monthly events for children and their parents. **On Saturday, June 1, from 9:30am-12pm at Redeemer** we'll have a Water Day with inflatable water slides. Children **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Women's Ministry: There will be no women's Bible study this summer. Instead, we will join the Men's Ministry **at Grove Roots from 4-6pm on June 18 & July 23**. In the place of formal gathering times, we'd encourage those with pools to open their homes to moms that are home with their children during the summer. If you are hosting a group from Redeemer, Vicky would be happy to help facilitate lunch for everyone. We hope this summer can be a time of refreshment as well as new friendships – especially across generational lines. If you'd like to host or help with lunches, contact Vicky Portlock (vicky@redeemerwinterhaven.org) or 863-289-1516.

Get Connected: The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening at Redeemer is through our online newsletter (redeemerwh.org/newsletter) and our mobile app (redeemerwh.org/app).

Worship Playlists: Follow our weekly set list on Spotify and Apple Music so that you can become familiar with the songs that we'll be singing on Sundays. You can find the playlist on the "RedeemerWH" app (above) or at: (redeemerwh.org/worship).

Our Mission

Our mission is to make Jesus' invisible kingdom visible in Winter Haven, Polk County, and the world.

Church Planting

One of the ways we hope to accomplish our mission is by planting new churches throughout Polk County. We proudly partner with Renew Polk (renewpolk.org) and the Florida Church Planting Network (flchurchplanting.org).

Community Groups

We also meet during the week in homes for what we call Community Groups. They are intended to be the primary "church" experience for all who are a part of Redeemer. If you are interested in visiting a community group, contact Ashley Bennett, ashmbennett1013@gmail.com.

MISSION
FUND

2024 GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$9,206

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