



# 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.*



## Vocabulary *of the* Faith

*February 2, 2025 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

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### **Season of the Cross:** Green for Ordinary Time

Ordinary time runs between Epiphany and Lent. Ordinary Time has traditionally been devoted to seeking our Lord in the simple, ordinary day-in and day-out rhythms of life. It is a time in which we are all invited to order our lives around Christ's life and teaching

## **Call to Worship:** Exodus 33:18-19; 34:6-7

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

### **People: Please show us your glory.**

Leader: I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name... The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty."

## **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.*

### Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder

## **Reading of the Law:** Psalm 145:3-10, 17-21

*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.*

3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. 6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. 7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. 8 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!

17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. 18 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. 19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. 20 The Lord preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

## **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:** Lamentations 3:22-25, 31-33

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

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness....

... 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." 25  
The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

31 For the Lord will not cast off forever, 32 but, though he cause grief, he will  
have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; 33 for he  
does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men.

## 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*

The Solid Rock  
Holy Holy Holy

## Worship Through Giving: Give Online at [redeemerwh.org/give](https://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.*

Nahum 1:1-3, 6-8, 15; 3:1, 5-7

## 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.*

Before the Throne of God Above

## **Mercy Offering:** Give Online at [redeemerwh.org/give](https://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.*

Tucker and Ann Scruggs

## **Song of Repose and Sending**

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

We Will Feast In The House of Zion

## **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 An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh. 2 The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. 3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

6 Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him. 7 The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. 8 But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

15 Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off.

3:1 Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder— no end to the prey!

5 Behold, I am against you, declares the Lord of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame. 6 I will throw filth at you and treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle. 7 And all who look at you will shrink from you and say, "Wasted is Nineveh; who will grieve for her?" Where shall I seek comforters for you?

Pg. 782–783 (Nahum 1:1–3, 6–8; 15; 3:1, 5–7 ESV)

## Resources

Gregory Cook, ***Severe Compassion***

Thomas McComiskey, ***The Minor Prophets***

Dane Ortlund, ***Gentle and Lowly***

Fleming Rutledge, ***The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ***

**Sermon Series:** Vocabulary of the Faith

**Sermon Title:** Judgment

**Date:** February 2, 2025

**Hook:** *Is God's judgment a comfort?*

## **I. GOOD GOD**

*"God is just, yet his mercy may in some respect said to be more natural to him than all acts of justice. ... When he exercises acts of justice, it is for a higher end, it is not simply for the thing itself. There is always something in his heart against it. But when he comes to show mercy, it is said that he does it with his whole heart. There is nothing at all in him that is against it. The act itself pleases him for itself. There is no reluctance in him."  
- Thomas Goodwin*

## **II. GOOD NEWS**

*"A non-indignant God would be an accomplice in injustice, deception, and violence."  
- Miroslav Volf*

**Takeaway:** *Seek shelter!*



## THE GOSPEL IN

### *Acts*

Acts is the story of God's grace flooding out to the world, from the cross and resurrection of Jesus in Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Nothing is more prominent in Acts than the spread of the gospel. Jesus promises a geographic expansion at the outset (Acts 1:8), and Acts follows the news of his death and resurrection as it spreads from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the faraway capital of Rome.

The preaching of Jesus' death and resurrection is central in Acts. The Greek verb for "preach the gospel" (euangelizo) occurs more in this book than in any other in the New Testament. About a third of the book of Acts consists of speeches, and most of these are speeches by Peter or Paul proclaiming the gospel. The good news of the salvation accomplished in Christ and applied by the Holy Spirit extends to the "ends of the earth" through preaching.

In Acts, "grace" is a parallel for "the gospel" or "salvation." Jesus' message is summarized as "the word of his grace" (Acts 20:32), believers are said to have received "grace" or to be "full of grace" (Acts 6:8), and they are challenged to continue in grace. The missionaries in Acts proclaim the grace of God, and it is through this grace that people are able to respond with faith.

The gospel's expansion is the culmination of what God has been doing since the beginning. Luke consistently grounds salvation in the ancient purpose of God, which comes to fruition at God's own initiative. Acts shows that the new Christian movement is not a fringe sect but the culmination of God's plan of redemption. What was seen only as shadows in the Old Testament God reveals finally and fully through Jesus Christ. The book of Acts does not primarily provide human patterns to emulate or avoid. Instead, it repeatedly calls us to reflect upon the work of God, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, establishing the church by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are invited to enter and participate in a story that is much bigger than we are.

The gospel spreads despite barriers of geography, ethnicity, culture, gender, and wealth. Many of these barriers appear so inviolable that when the gospel is preached to a new segment of society, riots ensue. But Luke makes clear that no one is beyond the scope of God's saving power, nor is anyone exempt from the need for God's redeeming grace. Jesus' gospel goes out to all places and all types of people, because Jesus is Lord of all.

## Announcements

**Get Connected Lunch:** Are you new to Redeemer or would you simply like to know more about how to connect to our church? Please join us for our Get Connected Lunch **today in Covenant Hall following the service.**

**Men's Retreat:** Registration is now open for our men's retreat: **February 21-22 at Dark Hammock Ranch: [redeemerwh.org/rsvp](https://redeemerwh.org/rsvp).** Vocation will be a topic of discussion at the retreat, we've created a short survey about work that we'd love for you to fill out - even if you won't be at the retreat: [redeemerwh.org/survey](https://redeemerwh.org/survey).

**Women's Bible Study:** Our Women's Bible Study **meets Thursday mornings from 9:30-11am.** We are going through Josiah Bancroft's book *Phillipians, Finding Joy When Life is Hard* until April 10th. Childcare is available. We hope to see you there!

**Men's CBR Group:** Our men's group meets weekly on **Tuesdays at 7am** in Covenant Hall. We spend about an hour catching up, reading the daily Bible passages, and praying together. No prep work is required and we finish up around 8am. You can come and go early if necessary.

**Memory Verse Flip Books:** Our memory verse flip books have arrived! You can find them in the lobby of the sanctuary. These flip books help us memorize Scripture as a community and meditate on the Word of God throughout the year.

**Get Connected:** The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening at Redeemer is through our online newsletter ([redeemerwh.org/newsletter](https://redeemerwh.org/newsletter)) and our mobile app ([redeemerwh.org/app](https://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](https://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](https://renewpolk.org)) and the Florida Church Planting Network ([flchurchplanting.org](https://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](mailto:ashmbennett1013@gmail.com).

MISSION  
FUND

**2025 GOAL: \$50,000**  
**RECEIVED: \$600**

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