



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

March 9, 2025 – The First Sunday of Lent

Season of the Cross: Purple for Lent

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and runs 40 days through Holy Week. It is a reminder of Jesus' own 40 days in the wilderness, where He fasted and was tempted. Lent is a time of repentance and fasting, of preparation and penitence, as we look ahead with anticipation to His death and resurrection.

Call to Worship: Psalm 103

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

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

People: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Leader: Bless the Lord, all his people. Bless the Lord, all his works. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

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.

Psalm 150 (Praise The Lord)

Reading of the Law: Mark 12:28-33

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.

12:28 And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. 33 And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

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).

Corporate Confession of Sin: Book of Common Prayer

In a culture that avoids talk of sin and culpability, regular prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God. We confess sin in the context of the covenant Lord's love shown to us through Jesus Christ. We offer our confession as part of a covenantal relationship.

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone...

...We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Song of Repentance

In this song of repentance we acknowledge our sin and our need of a Savior.

Most Merciful God

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 4:7-16

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

4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

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 Love Of Christ Is Rich And Free
Reckless Love

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 fifth grade** are dismissed for kids' worship.*

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.

Child Of The King

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.

All Sufficient Merit

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.

3:1 And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins." 2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. 3 And I said to her, "You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you." 4 For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. 5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; 2 there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. 3 Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and even the fish of the sea are taken away.

6:1 "Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. 3 Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth." 4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. 5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. 6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Pg. 751 (Hosea 3:1-5; 4:1-3; 6:1-6 ESV)

Resources

Brennan Manning, *Ragamuffin Gospel*

Paul Miller, *A Loving Life*

Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

Sermon Series: Vocabulary of the Faith

Sermon Title: Grace

Date: March 9, 2025

Hook: *Which is more important – to be right? Or to be good?*

I. BECOMING GOMER

"Christians tend to be Augustinian in theory but Pelagian in practice." – Eugene Peterson

II. BECOMING HOSEA

"Sometimes hesed is translated 'steadfast love.' It combines commitment with sacrifice. Hesed is one-way love. Love without an exit strategy. When you love with hesed love, you bind yourself to the object of your love, no matter what the response is." – Paul Miller

Takeaway: *Mercy, not sacrifice (Hosea 6:6; cf. Matt 9:13)*

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

“THE PASSOVER”

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 12:1-13 (ESV)

The account of the Passover with which Israel begins its exit out of Egypt and slavery is in many ways the central story of the Old Testament. It is meant to speak profoundly to God's people. On the one hand, it is a reminder that unless God intervenes and covers us, we are in the same condition as everyone else: part of a rebel creation that stands under God's judgment and condemnation. That is always part of our identity as human beings, and without it we cannot walk in humility either before God or others.

On the other hand, it is a reminder that the primary thing God wants from us is trust. He wants us to trust that he is merciful and that he cares for us. He wants us to trust that he desires to save and not condemn us. That is why he became incarnate in the person of Jesus. And he wants our lives to issue in the acts of obedience that manifest our trust in him — whether that is putting blood on our doorposts and eating the Passover meal as was the case for the Israelites, or remembering Jesus' death which saved us when we celebrate the Lord's Supper and then living lives of forgiveness and generosity. Is your life being characterized by this kind of humility and trust? If not, why not?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, grant me to so deeply feel my need for your mercy and to know your provision of it that humility and obedient trust might be profoundly manifest in my life. In Christ's name. Amen.

Taken from Redeemer NYC's Daily Lenten Devotional

Lenten Devotionals & Playlists



Available on our app



Announcements

Lent Resources: The season of Lent runs 40 days through Holy Week. It is a reminder of Jesus' own 40 days in the wilderness, where He fasted and was tempted. Lent is a time of repentance and fasting, of preparation and penitence, as we look ahead with anticipation to His death and resurrection.

To assist you in this season, we have **Lenten resources** on our app and website. There you will find daily devotionals as well as Spotify and Apple Music playlists.

Communion Throughout Lent: During the season of Lent, we will take Communion together weekly. As we prepare our hearts for corporate worship throughout the weeks of Lent, please also prepare your hearts to participate in the sacrament of Communion.

Student Ministry Fundraiser: Sunday, May 18, following the worship service, we are hosting a lunch to raise scholarship money for students to attend summer camp! Come support the student ministry in Covenant Hall where students will serve lunch and wait tables. Price per plate is whatever you are willing to pay to help send students to camp. Lunch will be followed by a dessert auction. If you have a dessert you think others would enjoy, please sign up at redeemerwh.org/dos.

Family Fest: During the student ministry fundraiser Sunday, May 18, we will be having an event for families with a bubble train, inflatables, and face painting. You won't want to miss this! This is a great opportunity to bring a friend!

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

2025 GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$3,509

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