

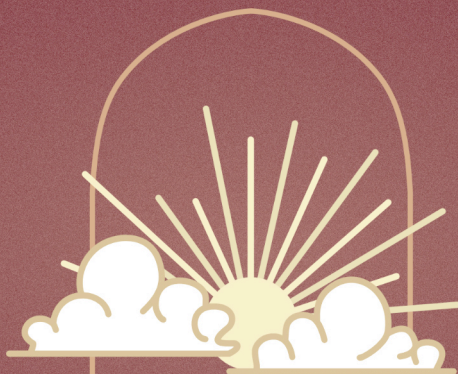


REDEEMER

WINTER HAVEN

*"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"*

Psalm 46:10 (ESV)



WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY

The Gospel of John

May 3, 2026 – Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

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, for exploring the ramifications of Easter for the redemption of all creation, and for joyful Christian living.

Call to Worship: Psalm 78:1, 4, 18-25

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

Leader: "Taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! ... The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. ... Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

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.

From the Depths of Woe (Psalm 130)

Reading of the Law: John 6:28-29

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.

28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"
29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

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: John 6:47-51

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

47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

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

His Mercy is More
Be Thou My Vision

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 first grade** 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught this prayer to guide His people in how to pray (Gospel of Matthew 6:9–13). When we pray it together, we address God as our Father, ask for His kingdom to come, depend on Him for daily provision, seek forgiveness, and look to Him for strength to walk in faithfulness.

Proclamation of God's Word

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

John 6:52–69

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.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I 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. I 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.

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Mercy Offering: 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.

Oak City Church Bartow

Song of Response & Sending

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

Yet Not I But Though Christ In Me

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

There is a prayer team available following the worship service for anyone in need of prayer.

Proclamation of God's Word

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

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." 59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

John 6:52-69 (ESV)

Resources

Larry Hurtado, ***Destroyer of the Gods***

C.S. Lewis, ***The Silver Chair***

Tim Keller, ***"Discipleship: True and False" sermon***

Tim Keller, ***Making Sense of God***

Sermon Series: We Have Seen His Glory

Sermon Title: The Bread of Life

Date: May 3, 2026

Hook: *What could make you walk away from Jesus?*

I. THE ROARING LION

"The people who hanged Christ never accused him of being a bore. On the contrary, they thought him too dynamic to be safe. It has been left for latter generations to muffle up that shattering personality and surround him with an atmosphere of tedium. We have every efficiently pared the claws of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, certified him 'meek and mild,' and recommended him as a fitting house pet for pale curates and pious old ladies." - Dorothy Sayers

II. THE ONLY STREAM

"Arguably, early Christianity represented not simply belief in one particular deity among many but, actually, in some respects a different kind of religion. Early Christianity was so different that many Roman-era people recoiled from Christianity and accused Christians of rank impiety and atheism." - Larry Hurtado

Take-away: *Feed on Jesus!*



THE GOSPEL IN

2 Corinthians

The Paradox of the Cross

Even though this book is called 2 Corinthians in our Bibles, there are multiple clues within this letter that it's not the second letter Paul ever wrote to the church in ancient Corinth. Paul had started this Jesus community some time ago on one of his missionary journeys (Acts 18), and, after moving on, he heard a report that things were not going well. The letter he wrote to them in response to this news is commonly known as 1 Corinthians, but it appears that many in the church had rejected Paul's teachings within that letter and had rebelled against his authority.

We learn that Paul followed up in person with what he calls a "painful visit" (2 Cor. 2:1) and that he later sent another letter, which was written with "anguish and tears" (2 Cor. 2:3-4; 7:8-12). After all these measures, most but not all of the Corinthians realized their arrogance and apologized to Paul, hoping to reconcile with him. So finally Paul wrote this letter, 2 Corinthians, to assure them of his love and commitment.

This book has been designed with three main sections, each addressing a distinct topic. In chapters 1-7, Paul finalizes his reconciliation with the Corinthians. In chapters 8-9, he addresses the topic of forgotten generosity. And in chapters 10-13, Paul challenges the remaining Corinthians who still reject him.

The Big Idea:

Jesus' willingness to humbly endure death by crucifixion should challenge our values and worldview. The elevation of humility, weakness, and service is the paradox of the Kingdom of God.

From *The Bible Project*, "2 Corinthians"

Announcements

Student Ministry Fundraiser: Make plans to join us on **Saturday, May 30** for our annual Youth Fundraiser. This event is an opportunity for students to raise scholarship money to attend summer camp. The wild game lunch will begin at 11:30am followed by a silent dessert auction at 12:30pm. If you'd like to bring a dessert, please contact Austin Snively, austin@redeemerwinterhaven.org.

Summer Fest: During our annual student ministry fundraiser on **Saturday, May 30**, we will be having an event for families with a bubble train, inflatables, and face painting. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend! Kids' activities begin at 11am.

Friends & Flowers: Ladies, let's kick off summer with a fun night of flower arranging (beginner friendly, promise!) and visiting with friends! We'll provide the flowers, snacks, and sips. Bring your own small vase! (But if you forget, we've got you covered). Sign up at redeemerwh.org/flowers.

Food, Fellowship, & Formation: Men, come enjoy food and fellowship, and learn more about the formative resources that Redeemer uses to build our character in Christ. **Thursday May 7 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm** in the Lakes Room.

Community Group Open House: If you are looking for a community group, we invite you to be part of our Community Group Open House on **May 31** after worship. This monthly gathering is designed for those hoping to join a regular group. Lunch will be provided, and you'll experience a typical community group format—time to connect, discuss the sermon, and share prayer requests. Please sign up at redeemerwh.org/rsvp.

Hearing Assistance: If you are in need of hearing assistance during the service, please join our "Redeemer Guest" Wifi and download the Listen Wifi App at redeemerwh.org/listen.

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).

MISSION
FUND

2026 GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$6,955

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