



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)

WELLNESS

BUILDING FOR RESILIENCY

July 26, 2026 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Season of the Cross: Green for Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is the long season that takes up three quarters of the church year. This portion of Ordinary Time runs between Pentecost and Advent. 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: Psalm 90:1–3, 12, 14

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

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

People: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

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.

The Sands of Time are Sinking

Reading of the Law: Psalm 39:4–7

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.

4 "O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! 5 Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! 6 Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather! 7 "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.

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: Hebrews 2:14–15; 1 Corinthians 15:55–57

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

2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

15:55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death
Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor

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.

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.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11, 2:24-26, 7:1-6, 9:7-10

Song of Response & Sending

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

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

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

Proclamation of God's Word

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

1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. 3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? 4 A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. 5 The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. 6 The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. 7 All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. 8 All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. 9 What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us. 11 There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 (ESV)

2:24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, 25 for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? 26 For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 (ESV)

7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth. 2 It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. 5 It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools. 6 For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6 (ESV)

9:7 Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. 8 Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. 9 Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10 (ESV)

Sermon Series: Wellness: Building for Resiliency

Sermon Title: Mortality

Date: July 26, 2026

Hook: *What does it mean to be "on the clock?"*

I. DENIAL

"To live a whole lifetime with the fate of death haunting one's dreams and even the most sun-filled days - that's the human condition." - Ernest Becker

II. LIVING BACKWARDS

"Death concentrates the mind wonderfully..." - Samuel Johnson

III. THE INTRUDER'S SHADOW

"Death is a wicked thief, and the bastard comes for us all." - Ben Sasse

Takeaway: *"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances..."*

Discussion Questions

1. Do you functionally live as if you are “on the clock”? How often do you think about your mortality?
2. How have you been influenced by the culture in its persistent denial of death’s reality? How do you get swept up into living as if you aren’t dying?
3. What are some practical ways you can build more habits of acknowledging God’s gifts and lessen habits of grasping for more and more gains?

Resources

David Gibson, ***Living Life Backward***

Tim Keller, ***On Death***

L.S. Dugdale, ***The Lost Art of Dying***

Ernest Becker, ***The Denial of Death***

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THE GOSPEL IN

Ezra

One Last Glimpse

Ezra and Nehemiah offer the final piece of Old Testament history, one last glimpse of God's people living out his redemptive plan before the coming of the Messiah. God's covenant promises are gloriously on display as this weak, struggling remnant returns to Jerusalem after the exile to live together again as his people, according to his Word.

Ezra in particular highlights God's redemptive plan. The opening verse declares that God initiates these events that he himself decreed through his prophets. God's hand is then evident throughout: sovereignly directing the kings and peoples who aim to have a hand in Zerubbabel's return and rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 1–6), and personally clearing the path for Ezra's later return to teach the law (Ezra 7–10). All the action unfolds God's plan, according to his Word.

God's redemptive plan focuses on a people. Ezra makes clear who these people are: Abraham's seed, those whom God promised to make a great nation in whom all the nations would be blessed. In Ezra, this blessed "remnant" is reassembled and numbered carefully by tribe and genealogy. Ezra's passion to keep them holy and separate reflects not ethnic elitism but rather a concern to honor the Lord who had redeemed them, reflecting his holiness through their own. Ezra thus sought to bring Israel to demonstrate trust in the Lord by obeying his law. This is the blessed way of life given to this chosen people from whom the promised offspring would come, according to God's Word. These exiles did not know Jesus' name, but they carefully traced the seed promises leading to his birth.

God's redemptive plan focuses on a people created to worship him—and the plan provides the means. Hope continues to rise in this book as we see struggling, sinful exiles released in waves from Babylon and rebuilding the temple that identified their land as the place of God's people and promise. Their ancient hope for a messianic King was no longer visible in an earthly kingdom (Zerubbabel remained in the line of David, but as the servant of a foreign king). So, by the efforts of the returning remnant of Israel, amid Jerusalem's ruins, hope emerges more clearly for God's promised King, who would rule on an eternal throne, and who would release his people finally and fully from their oppressors. In the meantime, God had provided the temple as a witness to his continuing presence and promises—a temple whose sacrifices also pictured and pointed ahead to the perfect sacrifice that would be needed for the eternal deliverance of God's people.

This perfect sacrifice and final King would come four centuries after Ezra lived. Jesus gathers up all these ancient longings in his coming to earth. The importance of the temple in Ezra makes us look ahead to the one who is himself the temple, providing access into God's presence through his blood (John 2:18–22; Rev. 21:22). The plain appearance of Ezra's rebuilt temple (in contrast to Solomon's magnificent one) helps us anticipate the spiritual temple that will rise as Christ's body, the church (Eph. 2:19–22).

Ultimately, God provided his Word, which Ezra the priest set his heart to study and do and teach (Ezra 7:10). Old Testament history comes to a close with a picture of God's people gathered around God's Word, yearning for the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises—the fulfillment that would come with the Word made flesh.

Announcements

Summer Children's Ministry: During the summer our children's ministry is hosting monthly events for children and their parents.

• **August 8, 9:30-11:30am** | Splash Bash at Lake Eva Aquatic Park

The Commons: This summer we've launched a new ministry for young singles in our church community. If you'd like more information about the group, reach out to **Dale (863.508.9807) or Misty McCracken (863.289.0735)**.

• **July 31** | Movie & Dinner | The Joinery in Lakeland

Membership Course: Redeemer's membership course is divided into five parts, corresponding to the parts of our theological vision – Gospel, City, Movement – our distinctives, and membership vows. The classes will be **Sundays after church from 11:45am- 1:00pm (Aug 16, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20) in the Cypress Room**. Lunch will be provided, as well as childcare if needed. Contact the office for membership class booklets. redeemerwh.org/membership

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 | Mandate

Sending leaders for a Gospel Movement in the City

Our Values | Motives

Gospel centrality | *calling sinners and the "righteous" to repentance*

Gracious community | *making Redeemer a safe place for sinners*

Earnest spirituality | *grace is opposed to earning but not effort*

Institutional integrity | *building trust for formative belonging through excellence*

Side-by-side ministry | *equipping the saints for the works of ministry*

Sending capacity | *growing through multiplication*

MISSION
FUND

2026 GOAL: \$50,000

RECEIVED: \$8,947

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