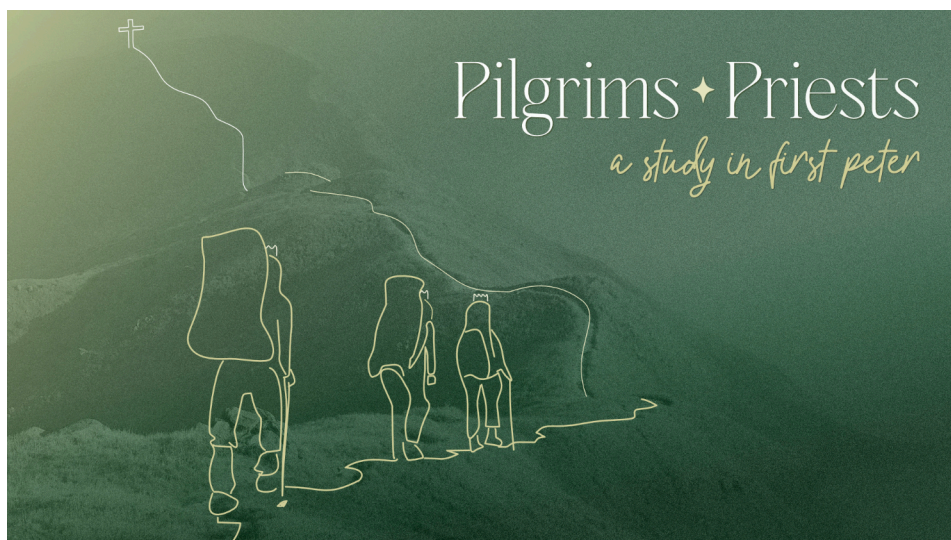




REDEEMER

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 its doors with a welcome from King Jesus the mighty Friend of sinners, the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the indefensible.



August 24, 2025 – Eleventh 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 145

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

Leader: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

People: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

Leader: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness.

People: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

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.

Immortal, Invisible

Reading of the Law: Exodus 19:4-6

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 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.

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 7:11-12; 24-28

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

11 Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? 12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well...

...24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

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

Before The Throne Of God Above
Holy Forever

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 (9am) age 3 (10:45am)** 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.

1 Peter 2:4-12

Song of Response & Sending

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

Is He Worthy

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.

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Pg. 1014 (1 Peter 2:4-12 ESV)

Resources

Edmund Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter*

James Davison Hunter, *To Change the World*

Stefan Paas, *Pilgrims and Priests*

Sermon Series: Pilgrims and Priests

Sermon Title: A Kingdom of Priests

Date: August 31, 2025

Hook: *Who in your life would you like to see come to faith in Jesus?*

Doctrine: *We are priests!*

I. CONTEXT OF OUR PRIESTHOOD

"This is characteristic of the earthly city, that it worships God or gods who may aid it in reigning victoriously and peacefully on earth not through love of doing good, but through lust of rule. The good use the world that they may enjoy God: the wicked, on the contrary, that they may enjoy the world would fain use God." - Augustine

II. CONTENT IN PRIESTHOOD

"The Church praises God on behalf of a world that does not know God. ... And it will invite others to join in this praise: to offer themselves as a sacrifice to God and glorify him. ... This is how priests fulfill their task." – Stefan Paas

III. CONDUCT OF PRIESTHOOD

"Virtuous people avail themselves of the things of this life with the moderation of a user, not the attachment of a lover." - Augustine

Take-away: *Proclaim his excellencies! Words are necessary!*



THE GOSPEL IN

Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy is clearly one of the most important books in the Old Testament. First, Jesus quoted the book of Deuteronomy more than any other book in the Old Testament. Second, Jesus used the book of Deuteronomy in his own life more than any other book in the Old Testament. For example, Jesus answered all three of his temptations in the wilderness with quotations from the book of Deuteronomy. Since the person of Jesus is at the very heart of the gospel and Deuteronomy was so important in his life, it should therefore not be hard to find the gospel in this last book of Moses' Pentateuch.

We can see the gospel in the overall structure of the book of Deuteronomy. While it is true that the majority of the book and the center of the book are occupied with laws and the consequences of keeping or breaking those laws, this "law" section is surrounded by grace. The first four chapters are in effect an account of how gracious God has been to Israel in the past. So, God's grace in the past serves as the context and motivation for Israel's keeping the law.

Likewise, the last four chapters are in effect an account of how gracious God will be to Israel in the future. So also, God's grace in the future serves as the context and motivation for Israel's keeping the law. Thus, in the book of Deuteronomy, the law is surrounded by grace, and keeping the law is a response to grace received and anticipated. We can also see the gospel within the central section of the book of Deuteronomy. Keeping the law in the book of Deuteronomy is a response to God's grace and not a means to earn God's favor. This truth is articulated nowhere more clearly than in the Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 5), where all of the commandments are rooted in God's gracious redemption. The apostle Paul certainly saw the gospel in the book of Deuteronomy.

In his letter to the Romans, for example, Paul drew on Deuteronomy to teach that the law reveals sin, that righteousness is by faith, that a circumcision of the heart is necessary for true obedience, that keeping the law is the way to love one's neighbor, that we should not seek personal revenge, and that we should expect Gentiles to be added to an originally all-Jewish people of God.

Finally, Jesus saw the gospel in the book of Deuteronomy. This is revealed not only in that he quoted extensively from Deuteronomy and used it in his own life, but also in that he reflected theologically on Deuteronomy. When asked, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered by including a quote from Deuteronomy 6:4-5: "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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'". Jesus taught that we love God because of who he is, "the Lord our God." We love him by keeping his commandments because he is our God; he is not our God because we love him by keeping his commandments. That is grace. It is gospel. And because we have received this grace, we keep the second greatest commandment, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself". We love because he loved. We extend grace because he extended grace.

Announcements

Get Connected Drop-In: Are you new to Redeemer or would you simply like to know more about how to connect to our church? Please join us **in the Blue Classroom after either service on September 14** for a short 30 minute meeting to learn more about Redeemer.

Women's Bible Study: This fall our women's Bible study will be going through Acts: *The Power That Changes the World, Study Guide (The Gospel-Centered Life in the Bible)*. We will be meeting **Thursdays starting on September 4 in the Blue Classroom from 9:30-11am**. Childcare provided, please contact Sally Goodwill at 863-325-5200.

A Praying Church: Join us **Friday, September 5, and Saturday, September 6 at Venue 650** to hear Paul E. Miller, author of *A Praying Life* and *A Praying Church*, give us a vision for and practical experience in praying as a community. Together, we'll look at praying communities through the ages and into today and discover what—or who—makes them work. The cost is \$25, and you can register at rebrand.ly/apc_wh.

We're Hiring: We're looking for a new director of our women's ministry. This is a part-time position. To see the job description or apply, please visit redeemerwinterhaven.org/employment.

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 (flichurchplanting.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: \$8,089

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