



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.



November 23, 2025 – Twenty-Fourth 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 113

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

ALL: Praise the Lord! ...

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

People: The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory is above the heavens!

Leader: Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

People: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes... He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

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: James 1:27; 2:14-17

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.

1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

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: Titus 2:11-14

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

2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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

Good And Gracious King
Hymn Of Heaven

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.

Matthew 25:31-46

Song of Response & Sending

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

Lord I Need You

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.

25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Pg. 830 (Matthew 25:31-46 ESV)

Resources

Tim Keller, *Generous Justice*

Matt Smethurst, *Tim Keller on the Christian Life*

Christopher Watkin, *Biblical Critical Theory*

Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God*

Sermon Series: Christ Will Come Again
Sermon Title: Christ Will Come Again: Be Just!
Date: November 23, 2025

Hook: *What is your knee-jerk reaction to being asked for money?*

Doctrine: *The better your grasp and experience of God's grace, the bigger your heart will be for justice.*

I. MEANING

"The righteous are willing to disadvantage themselves to advantage the community; the wicked are willing to disadvantage the community to advantage themselves." – Bruce Waltke

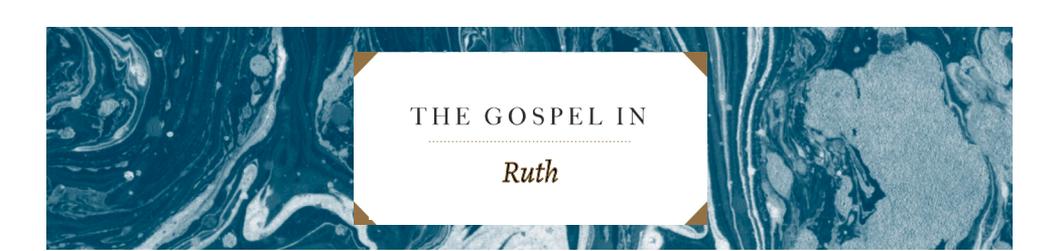
II. MOTIVES

"To the degree that the gospel shapes your self-image, you will identify with those in need... When Christians who understand the gospel see a poor person, they realize they are looking into a mirror." – Tim Keller

III. MECHANICS

"If the eye is the lamp of the soul, then the soul of Jesus is filled with people." – Paul Miller

Take-away: *We have to distinguish between the gospel and the results of the gospel. However, we have to insist on both.*



THE GOSPEL IN

Ruth

Covenant Love

Ruth is the story of a young Moabite widow who comes to know the covenant love of the one true God and the joy of belonging to his people through her Jewish mother-in-law, Naomi. As these two women navigate through difficult as well as ordinary circumstances, there is unmistakable evidence of God's sovereign hand at work to redeem a people for himself.

He is the hero of the story as the faithful God who with great loving-kindness (*hesed*) cares for his own and provides what they need. In Ruth's story we see a reflection of our own. For we too were "alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12). Like Ruth, we too need a Kinsman-Redeemer who will do what is necessary to remedy our helpless condition.

True Redeemer

The language of redemption permeates the story of Ruth: words built on the root "redeem" (*ga-al*) appear 23 times. Key to understanding the narrative is the concept of the kinsman-redeemer, the closest living male relative who had the duty to preserve the family name and land. He could do this in a number of ways: buying back either land that a poor relative had to sell or the family member that had sold himself into slavery to pay debts (Lev. 25:25, 47–49), avenging the death of a family member (Num. 35:19–21), or marrying the widow of a deceased relative (Deut. 25:5–10). All of these duties could be refused, including marriage to the late relative's widow (now known as "levirate" marriage, *levir* being the Latin translation of the Hebrew word for brother-in-law). In certain cases, one could be a *goel* (Hebrew for "close relative" or "redeemer") without being a *levir* (one who would provide an heir to the deceased relative through marrying his widow). In Ruth's case, the kinsman-redeemer Boaz elects to carry out the duties of both, buying her estate and taking her as his bride.

Readers of the New Testament will recognize Jesus Christ as the ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer who voluntarily paid the price for the redemption of his people and takes them as his beloved bride (Eph. 5:23–32; Rev. 19:7).

From *The Gospel Transformation Bible*,
"The Gospel in Ruth"

Announcements

Advent Communion: As we prepare our hearts for corporate worship next Sunday, be reminded that we will participate in the sacrament of Communion beginning November 30 and throughout the remainder of the Advent season.

Thanksgiving Service: Our annual Thanksgiving Service will be **Wednesday, November 26 at 6pm**. This is a brief service where we give thanks to God for who He is and all that He has done. Following the service, stick around to help us decorate the sanctuary for the holiday season! Childcare will be available through Pre-K.

Christmas Party: Our Christmas Party is **Sunday, December 7 at 5pm** at the Packing House (302 3rd St SW). We'll have heavy hors d'oeuvres and a coffee cart serving hot & cold (regular & decaf) drinks. This event is for adults only.

Student Ministry Christmas Party: Students, you don't want to miss our Christmas party on **Wednesday, December 17th from 6:30-8:30 pm!** We'll have a tacky sweater contest, white elephant gift exchange, dinner and dessert! Please bring a \$5 white elephant gift.

Women's Retreat: Ladies, registration is now open for our Redeemer Women's Retreat **January 30-Feb 1, 2026**. Join us at The Grove Resort in Orlando as we practice and experience Deeper Rest in Christ Alone. To register and to see more details including speakers, cost, schedule, and rooming choices, please visit redeemerwh.org/womensretreat. Please note that prices increase on December 2.

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: \$11,398

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