



*Today's Theme:*  
**Always Present, Always Patient**

# **R**EDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining us for worship today. At Redeemer we believe that the gospel message, the good news that Jesus has won for us forgiveness and eternal life, is more than just words. It's the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts. Our worship focuses on the proclamation of this life-saving message as we respond with our prayers, praise, and thanksgiving. May you be richly blessed as we worship together!

**VISITOR CARDS** are located in the card rack on the pew in front of you. If you are a guest with us today, please take a moment to fill out a card and hand it to either an usher or pastor or place it in the offering plate or the box in the gathering area.

**PARENTS' ROOM** If you have a young child or nursing infant and you find yourself in need of stepping out for a moment, a parents' room is located in the rear of the sanctuary.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEETS** as well as a collection of Arch books and doodle pads are available to keep little hands busy during worship. You'll find them on a corner shelf in the gathering area.

**RESTROOMS** are located in the gathering area. A family restroom is immediately to your right as you exit through the double doors in the rear of the sanctuary.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** can be found in your church bulletin box, in the literature rack on the rear wall of the sanctuary, or in the visitor card slots on the back of each pew.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers in the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like more information about Redeemer, please feel free to speak with one of our pastors or any one of the members after the service. You may also contact us anytime using the information below.

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# THE SEASON OF LENT

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March 23/24, 2025

## **OPEN DOOR POLICIES: GOD’S SURPRISING STRATEGIES FOR GETTING SINNERS BACK HOME**

When a wayward child wanders far from home, how does a loving parent pursue them without driving them further away? One thing that parent does is let the child know that there is an ongoing open-door policy. The child knows they will always be welcomed back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn’t just passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home.

In the Church Year, we have come to the season of Lent. The word Lent comes from an old English word for spring: “lengthen,” when the days grow longer. For over 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. In this 40-day journey to the cross and tomb, we will see the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses for getting sinners back home, close to him and the loving care he offers.

Ash Wednesday .....	Lowering Our Defenses
March 9 .....	No Detours Allowed
March 16 .....	One Stands; Everyone Else Sits
<b>March 23 .....</b>	<b>Always Present, Always Patient</b>
March 30 .....	Grace Instead of Condemnation
April 6 .....	Hiding Treasure in the Trash



## **TODAY’S THEME: ALWAYS PRESENT, ALWAYS PATIENT**

The heavenly Father is always present in the lives of his children. He sees every sorrow we endure. He also sees every sin that we commit, even if it’s only in our thoughts. He is always present. Yet, he is also always patient. God does not snap at us the second we turn from him. He gives us time to see the error of our ways. He assures us that the door back to him remains always open. By giving us room to share our struggles and shortcomings, he works in us the very repentance he desires and saves us from the judgement that would otherwise be ours.

# THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

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## OPENING HYMN

*I Run to Christ* | **833:1,2**

## INVOCATION

Minister                      In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation                Amen.

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

The Lord takes no pleasure in the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Ezekiel 33:11

**Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.** Joel 2:13

As children of God, let us leave behind our sin, turn to the Lord, and confidently seek his mercy.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -  
 cape. "De - liv - er me," I cry to him; temp - ta - tion  
 yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and  
 find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he  
 pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971 Tune: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

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The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, you are always present in the lives of your children. Remind us each day that in every struggle, hardship, and pain, you are always working for our good. And even though your constant presence also means that you see every time we go astray and fall into sin, be patient with us, forgive us, and empower us to continue striving to serve you with our lives, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



LATE SERVICE

BAPTISM OF DORETTA NALA AUGESEN

DAUGHTER OF ROBERT & MELISSA AUGESEN

*Following the concluding prayer of the baptismal rite, the congregation sings:*



1 Dear - est Je - sus, we are here, glad - ly your com -  
5 Now in - to your heart we pour prayers that from our



mand o - bey - ing; with this child we now draw near  
hearts pro - ceed - ed. Our pe - ti - tions heav'n - ward soar;



in re - sponse to your own say - ing that to you it  
may our warm de - sires be heed - ed! Write the name we



shall be giv - en as a child and heir of heav - en.  
now have giv - en; write it in the book of heav - en!

ONE LORD,  
FAITH,  
BAPTISM,  
GOD  
AND FATHER OF  
WHO IS ABOVE  
AND THROUGHOUT  
AND IN US ALL

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

<sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

<sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup> And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

*The Lord reveals his presence to Moses as flames within a bush—fire that warms and gives light yet does not consume.*



<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

"This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

*1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

<sup>1</sup> For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup> They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup> They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup> and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

*God revealed his presence among the nation of Israel. Instead of his presence leading to repentant faith, with a sense of false security the Israelites set their hearts on evil.*

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." <sup>8</sup> We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup> We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup> And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

<sup>11</sup> These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening | 631:2



2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you and to lis - ten  
to your voice; let me ev - er love and fear you,  
let your Word still be my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,  
Lord, flee in ter - ror at your Word; but to all who  
feel sin's bur - den you give peace and words of par - don.

## GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

<sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

<sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

*God is always patient, but our time of grace does come to an end at the moment of death. Since that can come at unexpected times, Jesus teaches that the time to repent is right now.*

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

<sup>8</sup> " 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## CHILDREN'S LESSON

*Children are invited to come forward and gather on the steps in the front of the sanctuary for a Bible lesson with the pastor.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Delay Not! Delay Not | 712*

## SERMON

**BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT FALL**

*1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

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, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



## OFFERING



*Online gifts may be given by scanning the QR code or at [redeemerfdl.org/give](https://redeemerfdl.org/give). You may also use the Vanco app: Search first for Fond du Lac, then scroll down to Redeemer. Online givers may place the cards located in the card rack on the back of the pews into the plate.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Almighty God, you order and number our days according to your wisdom. Give us repentant hearts. Turn us away from our sins to you for forgiveness. Let us hold fast to Christ for life and salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, you take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they turn from evil and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death and all Christians strength to defend that message. Turn sinners to you for life and salvation by the proclamation of Christ crucified. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all, you establish justice not through the desires of sinners but by your Law. Enlighten the authorities of this and every nation, that they might rule justly for true good. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, protect us when we are tempted. Guard us especially from pride that justifies sin and from doubting that you provide the way of escape. Strengthen us with penitent hearts to endure until you deliver us. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, remember your people who cry to you for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil. Deliver those in need of healing and comfort, [especially \_\_\_\_\_,] and strengthen them to look to you for help in their time of affliction. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Lord of life, You have brought us into your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for your patience and strengthen to show your love and grace in all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* | **839**