

Week 5

Rethinking Devoted Commitment

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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 are available to keep little hands busy during worship. They are located 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. The other restrooms are to your left.

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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WORSHIP IN THE SEASON OF LENT

March 17/18, 2024

RETHINKING RELIGION

Everyone has assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone has assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Americans are walking away from Christianity in breathtaking numbers. It raises the question: How do those people know if their assumptions about religion are correct? Do they really understand Christianity at all? Do we? Do we truly understand this religion?

In the season of Lent, as much as any other, Jesus teaches things that turns the world’s assumptions about religion completely upside down. We call it “Christianity.” So, in this holy season, let us go straight to Christ and let him replace assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

Our worship follows this pattern:

- February 18Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations
- February 25Rethinking Suffering under the Cross
- March 3Rethinking the Worth of Worship
- March 10.....Rethinking the Solution to Sin
- March 17Rethinking Devoted Commitment**
- March 24Rethinking Real Strength



TODAY’S FOCUS: RETHINKING DEVOTED COMMITMENT

Religious sociologists sometimes divide Christians into two groups: committed Christians and cultural Christians. The former are usually defined as those who are active in a congregation, who pray regularly, who read Scripture, etc. The latter are those individuals who call themselves Christian and perhaps have some Christian beliefs. Yet, they do not strive to live a Christian life. They are not interested in church involvement. Those definitions are interesting when trying to understand shifts in American Christianity. However, they demonstrate a false assumption about the Christian religion. There is indeed a devoted commitment at the center of Christianity, but it is not man’s commitment to God. At the heart of Christianity we find God’s devotion and commitment to us.

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness | **602:1,2**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Selected Verses

Minister How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

Congregation And that is what we are!

To all who receive Jesus, to those who believe in his name

He gives the right to become children of God.

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

We have received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

We worship in the name of the Father, who calls us his dear children, and in the name of the ☩ Son, who clothes us with his righteousness and calls himself our brother, and in the name of the Holy Spirit who brought us into God's family through faith.

Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Brothers and Sisters: As those who have been baptized in the name of our triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—let us confess our sins.

Heavenly Father, I confess my sins to you. In so many ways, I have failed to love you with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. At times, I place my own wants in front of your perfect will for my life. I give in to temptation and sin. I have earned your punishment and deserve to be forsaken forever. In Jesus' name, hear my cry for mercy, and give me the comfort of your forgiveness.

For all who trust in his only begotten Son, God will not withhold his forgiveness. Instead, he richly pours out his grace upon everyone who believes. Having heard your confession, I announce the grace of God to you for the sake of Jesus Christ, our eternal Savior. All your sins are forgiven; your guilt is taken away. Serve the Living God in peace, joy, and everlasting thanks for his undeserved kindness to you.

Amen.

3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain
 Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;
 all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisolm, 1866-1960

Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for your love and commitment to us, even though we so often are not fully committed to you. Forgive us for all the times we've let our own interests pull us away from your holy will, and let your unfailing love for us in Christ strengthen and motivate us to commit our lives each day to glorifying you. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.



THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you
are mine.

² When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your stead.

⁴ Since you are precious and honored in
my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the
east

and gather you from the west.

⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them
back.'

Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of
the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;

indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;

the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:7-9

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival.

²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

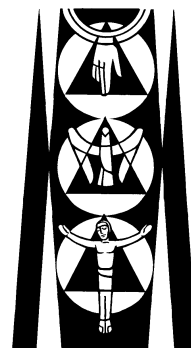
CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.



HYMN OF THE DAY

How Firm a Foundation | **800**

SERMON

RETHINKING DEVOTED COMMITMENT

Psalms 121

OFFERING



Online gifts may be given by scanning the QR code or at 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

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.



THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

In the Bible, God gives us instructions for Communion. He says, "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat the bread and drink of the cup," and that, if you don't fully understand what Communion is, you could bring spiritual harm upon yourself (1 Corinthians 11:28,29). Those who receive Communion today confess they hold the following convictions:

- *I repent of all my sins, holding nothing back from God (1 John 1:9).*
- *I believe that Jesus took away my sins through his death on the cross (1 John 3:5).*
- *I believe that in Communion I receive Jesus' true body and blood along with the bread and the wine (Matthew 26:26-27, 1 Corinthians 10:16).*
- *I agree with all the teachings of this church family, as I have learned to know them through their instruction classes.*

If you have any questions or are interested in taking our Bible instruction class, please speak with one of our pastors after worship.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Draw Us to Thee | **700**

Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult | **711**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest!
The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest.

Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here
my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear.

And when you call my spirit to leave this world below,
I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow. 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

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me | **849:1,2**

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