



Rethinking Religion

Rethinking Trials, Tests and Temptations

First Sunday in Lent

February 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!

RETHINKING TRIALS, TESTS AND TEMPTATIONS

"If God loves us, why doesn't he remove all the trials and tests and temptations that we face?" That question demonstrates the religious assumption that those things are bad. They aren't. In the hands of a loving God, they are tools by which he refines our faith. He uses tests as a way to compel us to be less self-reliant, and instead trust in his strength. He uses trials to teach us that this broken world is not our true home. God even takes Satan's temptations and uses them for our good.

Trials, tests, and temptations are not exceptions to God's love. That's a false assumption! These are examples of God's love. Proof is that God allowed his beloved Son Jesus to face trials and temptations, so that he might be our perfect savior and substitute.

God bless your worship.

(Personal preparation for communion can be found on pages 295-296 of the hymnal.)

PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior. Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	8:00am: Pastor David Clark	10:45am: Pastor John Hartmann
Preacher		Pastor Adam Mueller
Organist/Pianist		Nathan Reich
Cantor		Jason Williams
Usher Teams	8:00am: Ian & Jon Follendorf, Charlie Weinstein	10:45am: Patrick & Gabe Learned, Clyde Brumfield
Flowers	The flowers on the altar this morning were given to the Glory of God by Martin & Pam Hansen in honor of their daughter, Cody's birthday.	

† ORDER OF SERVICE †

Greeting and welcome

OPENING HYMN

Take Heart | 829

Cantor: verses 1-2 **Congregation:** verse 3

Stand

INVOCATION¹

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION²

Christ was born. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

¹ *The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

² *The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners" [The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?]. See John 20:21-23.*

The Word

SALUTATION³

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Genesis 22:1-18

God asks Abraham to sacrifice his one and only son.

¹ Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

³ This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word section and the Sacrament section the service.

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM OF THE DAY

I Lift My Soul to You | Psalm 25(B)

Cantor: verse 1 **Congregation:** verse 2

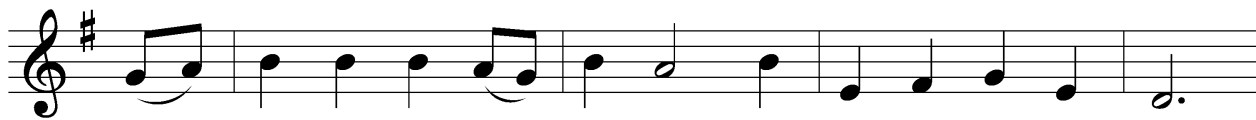


1 I lift my soul to you, LORD, I trust, O God, in you.

2 Your cov - e - nant and mer - cy are with me all my days



Send forth your truth to guide me, and teach me what to do.
to com - fort and to bless me, to keep me in your ways.



Re - mem - ber your great mer - cy, your ev - er - last - ing love;
When - ev - er I look up - ward, I find you wait - ing there,



for - give me, God, my Sav - ior, my guilt and sin re - move.
to bear me and to keep me all safe be - neath your care.

Text: para. William Miller; Jaroslav Vajda, alt. Tune: Swedish

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SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-39

If God is for us, who can be against us?

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 4:15

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses; we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:12-15

Satan tempts Jesus for forty days.

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, ¹³ and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God | **863**

SERMON

"Irrefutable Proof of God's Love"

Romans 8:31-39

Stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER AND MUSICAL OFFERTORY

You may place your offering in the one of the plates located in the church entryway. Or to give electronically, go to redeemertucson.com/offerings.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For faith to follow our Lord Jesus and resist temptation, that we would come through this fallen world to dwell with him forever, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church of God, guarded by the Lord who bore the wood of the cross, that her ministers and people may be certain that the gates of hell cannot prevail against us; and for boldness of faith, that we may trample every power of the enemy underfoot, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all catechumens and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home, that God would preserve them from the assaults of the evil one and, as Christ overcame Satan in the desert by the Word of God, give them the victory through him and his Word, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

To the Father of lights, from whom every good and perfect gift comes, that he would keep us from all sinful desires and misuse of his gifts; for his help to use them in service to our neighbor; and that he would bless Joseph and all leaders to govern wisely for the good of this and future generations, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our brothers and sisters and all who suffer in our midst, especially [...], that God Most High, our refuge in every trouble, would command his angels to keep them from every evil of body, mind or soul, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who commune, that in the blessed Sacrament they would acknowledge the time fulfilled and the kingdom at hand in Christ Jesus, receiving his body and blood with repentance and faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, see how the adversary continually afflicts us and walks about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. We pray that you would help us by the grace of the Holy Spirit, strengthen our hearts by your Word, that our enemy would not prevail over us, but instead that we may abide evermore in your grace and be preserved to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, 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.**

Stand

The Sacrament

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 LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei (Brit) | 1031

Tune: ST. CRISPIN



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can-celled



cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will



took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

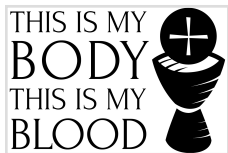
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Be seated

DISTRIBUTION



In keeping with the Bible's teaching on Holy Communion, Redeemer celebrates the sacrament with her members and those who belong to her church body, the WELS. If you are not yet a member of Redeemer or WELS, please speak with one of our pastors before communing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing | **404**

Stand

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

If God Himself Be for Me | **819:1-2**

- ❖ *Please reserve the pews in the back of the church for families with small children.*
- ❖ *Restrooms are located in the entrance area of the church. A changing table is available in the women's restroom.*
- ❖ *A quiet room with a window is available in the entrance area of the church and offers live audio of the service. Parents may use this room to calm a restless child.*
- ❖ *If you would like to know more about Redeemer, visit redeemertucson.com or contact one of our pastors.*



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
8845 N SILVERBELL ROAD - TUCSON, AZ 85743

WWW.REDEEMERTUCSON.COM - (520) 572-8136

CHURCHOFFICE@REDEEMERTUCSON.COM

PASTOR ADAM MUELLER - PASTORMUELLER@REDEEMERTUCSON.COM

PASTOR JOHN HARTMANN - PASTORHARTMANN@REDEEMERTUCSON.COM

PASTOR DAVID CLARK - PASTORCLARK@REDEEMERTUCSON.COM