



# Rethinking Religion

## Rethinking the Worth of Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 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 THE WORTH OF WORSHIP**

Person A never attends worship. He can't see the point. Person B attends every week out of a slavish sense of obligation. Her mind wanders during the services, for she views the activities of worship merely as tasks for her to complete. Who is worse off? Rather than debating the point, let us just admit neither understand the true worth of worship. And that is exactly what Satan wants.

Many think worship is about what we do for God. It is the other way around. As we gather around Word and sacrament, the Spirit moves us to love and trust in God above all things. Moved by the cross of Christ, we bow down before our God. We commune with him. And that's exactly what God wants.

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 John Hartmann **10:45am:** Pastor David Clark

**Preacher**

Pastor Adam Mueller

**Organist/Pianist**

Tina Christianson

**Choir**

**Directed by:** Nathan Reich

**Usher Teams**

**8:00am:** Martin Hansen, Tim & Ben Webster, Charlie Weinstein

**10:45am:** Rich Kasson, James Weinstein, Clyde Brumfield

**Flowers**

The flowers on the altar this morning were given to the Glory of God by Jean Lorenzen's family, in honor of her 90th birthday on March 4.

# † ORDER OF SERVICE †

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*Greeting and welcome*

## **OPENING HYMN**

*Open, Lovely Doors | 912*

*Stand*

## **INVOCATION**

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

**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**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.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

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.**

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# The Word

## **SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; 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*

## **CHILDREN'S ANTHEM (10:45 a.m.)**

*Great Is the Lord*

*Redeemer School students, preschool-8th grade*

## **FIRST READING**

**Exodus 20:1-17**

*The Ten Commandments teach that love is the summary of the law.*

<sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the

earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> "You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> "You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

## **SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

*The message of the cross is the power of God to save.*

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

John 2:17

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

His disciples remembered that it is written:

“Zeal for your house will consume me.”

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

## **GOSPEL**

John 2:13-22

*Zealous for true worship, Jesus cleanses the temple of materialism.*

<sup>13</sup>When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup>So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!”

<sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup>Then the Jews demanded of him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

<sup>20</sup>The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Be seated*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Salvation unto Us Has Come | 558:1,6,8,10*

## **SERMON**

**“Searching For Answers To Life's Biggest Questions”**

*1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

*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 & MUSICAL OFFERTORY**



## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

○ Lord, you are a jealous God. Save the third and fourth generations that will come after us from your punishment.

**Fill us with Jesus' zeal for worship, that we may cast every idol from our hearts and be devoted to you.**

○ Lord, your Son's cross and crucifixion is folly to the world, but it is the source of repentance and forgiveness for all his elect.

**Preserve the preaching of the cross at Redeemer, that from this tree we would continually receive your gifts of grace.**

○ Lord, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in your fear.

**Lead children to honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life.**

○ Lord of the perfect Law, you have called us to honor our parents and all other authorities, that it may go well with us in our land. Bless Joseph, Katie, and all who govern us. Make them wise in your ways, that your justice may be upheld among us.

**Help us to serve and obey them in accord with your will.**

○ Lord, our God, your steadfast love in Christ is good. Turn in your abundant mercy toward all who suffer in our midst [*especially...*]. Do not let the flood sweep over them nor the pit close its mouth on them.

**Deliver them and grant them healing, comfort and peace.**

○ Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, though we cannot even discern all our errors, declare us innocent in Christ of all hidden faults.

**By your Holy Spirit keep us back from presumptuous sins.**

○ Lord, you bless this day and make it holy with your Word and the gifts of your altar.

**Grant that we may come before your presence worthily.**

○ Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, three days after the temple of your Son's body was destroyed by wicked men he raised it up again.

**Grant that on the Last Day we and all the saints who now rest in your presence may share in the glory of His resurrection.**

Into your hands, ○ Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; 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*

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## *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.**



# LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us, grant us peace.

*Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman  
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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.*

*Stand*

## **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**

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing* | **930:2-3**



- ❖ *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](http://redeemertucson.com) or contact one of our pastors.*



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