



Rethinking Religion

Rethinking the Solution to Sin

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 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 SOLUTION TO SIN

While not every religion uses the word "sin," they all embrace the concept. Every religion acknowledges that mankind's flawed attitudes or misguided actions are a source of pain, both now and potentially in eternity. So, every religion offers a solution: a set of laws, a moral code, a path to more enlightened behavior. What do they have in common? We are to solve sin through human effort. Be better! Try harder! This is the heart of every false religion. Those who correctly understand they will never overcome their sin are crushed by guilt. Those who ludicrously believe they have defeated their sin are killed by pride.

True religion offers a better way—one that frees us from guilt and has no room for pride. Jesus teaches that the solution to our sin is not to work harder. It is to trust in the work he has done for us. Salvation comes through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ.

God bless your worship.

OFFERING

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.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	8:00am: Pastor Adam Mueller	10:45am: Pastor John Hartmann
Preacher		Pastor David Clark
Organist/Pianist		Rachel Casmer
Preservice Musicians		Patrick Farley Adam Koniar
Choir		<i>Directed by:</i> 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 Ted and Kathy Feuling, in memory of Travis.	

† ORDER OF SERVICE †

Greeting and welcome

OPENING HYMN

Pass Me Not | 822

Choir: verses 1-2 **Congregation:** verses 3-4

Stand

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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 MESSAGE

The children's devotion is a shortened version of the sermon intended to communicate God's truths in a simplified way. Children age 12 and under are encouraged to come forward.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANTHEM

Nothin'

Sunday School: Nothin' can wash away my sin. *(sung 3X)*
Nothin', nothin', nothin' but the blood of Jesus.

Sunday School: Nothin' can make the devil run. *(sung 3X)*
Nothin', nothin', nothin' but the blood of Jesus.

Women/Girls: **Nothin' can bring me peace with God. *(sung 3X)***
Nothin', nothin', nothin' but the blood of Jesus.

Men/Boys: **Nothin' can lead me to your throne. *(sung 3X)***
Nothin', nothin', nothin' but the blood of Jesus.

All: **Nothin' can make your people one. *(sung 3X)***
Nothin', nothin', nothin' but the blood of Jesus.

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

The LORD's solution for complaining Israelites was to look and live.

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

How Blest Are Those | **Psalm 32(B)**

In unison.



1 How blest are those the LORD for - gives; how
 2 I si - lent - ly con - cealed my guilt, but
 3 I then con - fessed my sin to you, my
 4 Let all the faith - ful pray to you while



glad they are to hear their sin is gone, their
 then I groaned all day: your heav - y hand, like
 griev - ous guilt and shame, and you for - gave my
 you may still be found; you place them safe a -



guilt a - toned, their rec - ord clean and clear.
 sum - mer heat, took all my strength a - way.
 wick - ed - ness by your most gra - cious name.
 bove the flood, se - cure on high - er ground.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

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SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

You have been saved by grace through faith.

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 3:16

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

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

The LORD's solution for a sinful world is to look to Christ and live.

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

God Loved the World So That He Gave | **570:1-4**

SERMON

You Are God’s Very Own

1. Do you recognize what sin does?
2. Do you recognize God’s abundant grace made you alive?
3. Do you recognize yourself as God’s work of art?

Ephesians 2:1-10

Stand

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.**



Be seated

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER AND MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERMON HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved | **575:1-4**

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

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

There Is a Redeemer | **519:1-2**