



Rethinking Religion

Rethinking Devoted Commitment

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 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 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. Even believers will at times demonstrate lukewarm commitment at best. Instead, at the heart of Christianity we find God's devotion and commitment to us. It is a devoted commitment so strong that it put God on the cross.

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		Rachel Casmer
Musicians		Gail & Calli Stoeckman
Cantor		Sarah Williams
Usher Teams	8:00am: Martin Hansen, Tim & Ben Webster, Charlie Weinstein	10:45am: Rich Kasson, James Weinstein, Clyde Brumfield

† ORDER OF SERVICE †

Greeting and welcome

OPENING HYMN

Drawn to the Cross | **808**

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.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; 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

Isaiah 43:1-7

Redemption is the LORD's commitment to us: you are mine!

- 1 But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, 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.

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

- 4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give men in exchange for you,
and people 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

Psalm 121

Cantor: 1st refrain, verses **Congregation:** repeat 1st refrain, remaining refrains

Refrain

God will be with us all a - long our way.

God will be with us ev - `ry night and day.

1. To the hills I lift my eyes;
Where shall help and strength arise?
From the Lord will come my aid,
Who all heav'n and earth has made. **(Refrain)**

2. God will guide through dangers all,
On your way you will not fall;
God who safe the people keeps
Slumbers not and never sleeps. **(Refrain)**

3. Your protector is the Lord,
Shade for you God will afford;
Neither sun nor moon shall smite,
God shall guard by day and night. **(Refrain)**

4. God will ever keep your soul,
What would harm, God will control;
In your home and by the way
God will keep you day by day. **(Refrain)**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:7-9

Jesus' obedient submission to the cross is the source of salvation for all who believe.

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, 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.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 10:45

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

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.

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

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

Glory is given to God through Jesus' devoted commitment to death.

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. 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 I tell you the truth, 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 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his 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 heart 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 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Gave My Life for Thee | CW'93 454:1-4



1 I gave my life for thee; My pre - cious
2 My Fa - ther's home of light, My rain - bow -
3 I spent long years for thee In wea - ri -
4 I suf - fered much for thee, More than my



blood I shed That thou might'st ran - somed be
cir - cled throne, I left for earth - ly night,
ness and woe That an e - ter - ni - ty
tongue may tell, Of bit - t' rest ag - o - ny,



And quick - ened from the dead. I gave my
For wan - d'rings sad and lone. I left it
Of joy thou might - est know. I spent long
To res - cue thee from hell. I suf - fered



life for thee; Come, give thy - self to me!
all for thee; Come, now and fol - low me!
years for thee; Come, spend thy years for me.
much for thee; Come, bear thy cross with me.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.

Tune: OLD 120TH (66 66 66) *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, London, 1592.

SERMON

"Jesus, our Perfect Priest"

Hebrews 5:7-9

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 before or after the service. To give electronically, go to redeemertucson.com/offerings.

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.**

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.

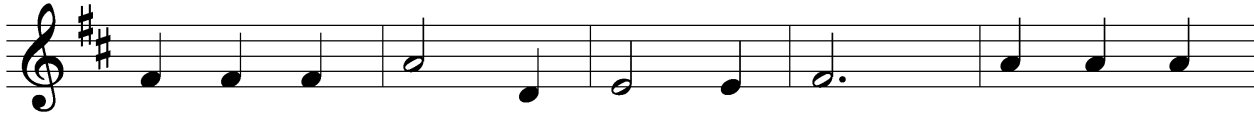
Amen.



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.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: George J. Elvey

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Tune: Public domain

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

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.

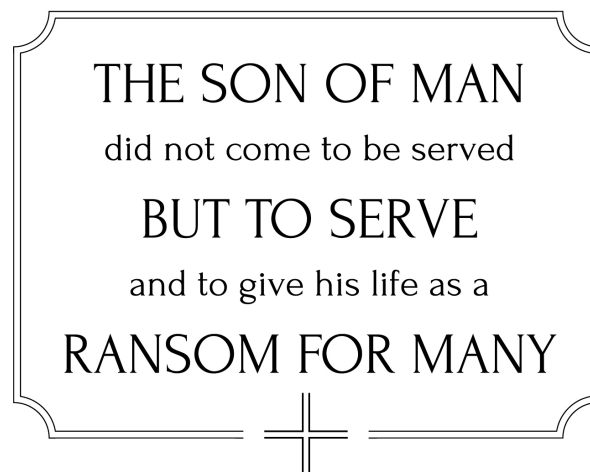
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus | **704:1-3**



- ❖ *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 or contact one of our pastors.*



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