



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come— this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Opening Prayer

Greeting and Call To Worship

Leader: Let us worship God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

People: *We are new creations;
the old has gone, the new has come!*

Leader: Let us worship God as Christ's ambassadors.

People: *Through us and through our worship
may we announce the good news to all.*

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

People: *Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed, renewed!*

—based on John 4.24; 2 Corinthians 5.17-21

Opening Hymn | Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Words by Robert Robinson, 1758; Music is traditional American melody

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.*

*O, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

All Singing: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: *The Name of the Lord be praised!*

Hymn of Worship | Thy Mercy My God

Words by John Stocker (1776), music by Sandra McCracken (2001)

*Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.*

*Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.*

*Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.*

*Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.*

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *God of mercy, whose Son, Jesus Christ,
longs to gather us in the wide embrace of his love,
we confess that we have been wayward children.
We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been deaf to your call;
our hearts have been cold to your love.
In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name.
In your great mercy receive us yet again as your well-beloved children,
not because we are worthy but for the sake of him
who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: The Lord God said:

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
I will remove from you your heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.

Brothers and sisters: In Christ, all God's promises are "Yes."
Hear the good news: Through Christ,
our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

—based on Ezekiel 36.26; 2 Corinthians 1.20

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Gospel Reading | Mark 8.31-38

[31] And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. [32] And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. [33] But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

[34] And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [35] For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. [36] For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? [37] For what can a man give in return for his soul? [38] For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Hymn of Worship | Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Words by Henry Lyte, 1824

*Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, and forsaken, Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still my own.*

*Let the world despise and leave me, They have left my Savior too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me, Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might.
Foes may hate and friends disown me, Show Thy face and all is bright.*

*Man may trouble and distress me, 'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me, Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me, While Thy love is left to me.
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me, Were that joy unmixed with Thee.*

*Go, then, earthly fame and treasure, Come disaster, scorn and pain.
In Thy service, pain is pleasure, With Thy favor, loss is gain.
I have called Thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on Thee.
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather, All must work for good to me.*

*Soul, then know thy full salvation, Rise o'er sin and fear and care.
Joy to find in every station, Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee! Think what Father's smiles are thine!
Think that Jesus died to win thee! Child of heaven, canst thou repine?*

*Haste thee on from grace to glory, Armed by faith, and winged in prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days!
Hope shall change to glad fruition, Faith to sight, and prayer to praise!*

Psalm | Psalm 22.22-31

Leader: I will tell of your name to my brothers;

People: *In the midst of the congregation I will praise you:*

Leader: You who fear the LORD, praise him!

People: *All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,*

Leader: And stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

People: *For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,*

Leader: And he has not hidden his face from him,

People: *But has heard, when he cried to him.*

Leader: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

People: *My vows I will perform before those who fear him.*

Leader: The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;

People: *Those who seek him shall praise the LORD!*

Leader: May your hearts live forever!

People: *All the ends of the earth shall remember*

Leader: And turn to the LORD,

People: *And all the families of the nations*

Leader: Shall worship before you.

People: *For kingship belongs to the LORD,*

Leader: And he rules over the nations.

People: *All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;*

Leader: Before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

People: *Even the one who could not keep himself alive.*

Leader: Posterity shall serve him;

People: *It shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;*

Leader: They shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,

People: *That he has done it.*

Ministry of the Word | Love in the Real World

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | From Exodus 21 & 22

[1] "Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. [2] When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing. [3] If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. [4] If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out alone. [5] But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' [6] then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.

[12] "Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. [13] But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. [14] But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.

[15] "Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.

[16] "Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.

[17] "Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.

[22] "When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. [23] But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, [24] eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, [25] burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

[26] "When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, he shall let the slave go free because of his eye. [27] If he knocks out the tooth of his slave, male or female, he shall let the slave go free because of his tooth.

[28] "When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable. [29] But if the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death. [30] If a ransom is imposed on him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is imposed on him.

[35] "When one man's ox butts another's, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and share its price, and the dead beast also they shall share. [36] Or if it is known that the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has not kept it in, he shall repay ox for ox, and the dead beast shall be his.

[22.1] "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. [2] If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him, [3] but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him. He shall surely pay. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. [4] If the stolen beast is found alive in his possession, whether it is an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double.

[7] "If a man gives to his neighbor money or goods to keep safe, and it is stolen from the man's house, then, if the thief is found, he shall pay double. [8] If the thief is not found, the owner of the house shall come near to God to show whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor's property. [9] For every breach of trust, whether it is for an ox, for a donkey, for a sheep, for a cloak, or for any kind of lost thing, of which one says, 'This is it,' the case of both parties shall come before God. The one whom God condemns shall pay double to his neighbor.

Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith

*During his whole life on earth,
but especially at the end,
Christ sustained
in body and soul
the anger of God against the sin of the whole human race.
This he did in order that,
by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice,
he might set us free, body and soul,
from eternal condemnation,
and gain for us God's grace,
righteousness, and eternal life.*

—Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A37

Prayers of the People, Concluded with the Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.*

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Holy Communion

(For those watching at home, I encourage you to take this time to watch and pray with us. Remember this all along: Jesus is not more present with us who are gathered than he is with you at home! The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of his blessing to us, and a great gift, but it does not mean you are missing out on his presence or his blessing. We all participate by faith in Christ whether physically receiving the Supper or not.)

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: *We lift them up to the Lord!*

Leader: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God!

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise!*

Leader: It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

People: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!*

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

Leader: *Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.*

People: *Therefore, let us keep the feast.*

Leader: *The gifts of God for the people of God.*

The Feast

Communion Hymn | Come to the Waters

Words by James Montgomery Boice; music by Paul S. Jones, 2008

*Come to the waters, whoever is thirsty;
Drink from the Fountain that never runs dry.
Jesus, the Living One, offers you mercy,
Life more abundant in boundless supply.*

*Come to the River that flows through the city,
Forth from the throne of the Father and Son.
Jesus the Savior says, "Come and drink deeply."
Drink from the pure, inexhaustible One.*

*Come to the Fountain without any money;
Buy what is given without any cost.
Jesus, the gracious One, welcomes the weary;
Jesus, the selfless One, died for the lost.*

*Come to the Well of unmerited favor;
Stretch out your hand; fill your cup to the brim.
Jesus is such a compassionate Savior.
Draw from the grace that flows freely from him.*

*Come to the Savior, the God of salvation.
God has provided an end to sin's strife.
Why will you suffer the Law's condemnation?
Take the free gift of the water of life.*

Concluding Prayer

One More Hymn and the Offering | My Jesus, I Love Thee

Words by William Featherstone (1864), Music by Adoniram Gordon (1880)

*My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
For thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*I love thee because thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
And say when the deathdew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: May the God of love, who shared his love,
strengthen us in our love for others.
May the Son who shared his life
grant us grace, that we might share our life.
And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us
empower us to be only and always for others.

People: *Amen!*

CCLI # 11299454

Announcements

Alpha:

Alpha meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm at 2820 Oak Knob.

- *Alpha begins with prayer.* Please be in prayer about those who have been invited to Alpha, that people will respond favorably to the invitations, and that God will be at work in Alpha. Pray we will see the opportunities before us.
- If you want to be involved, we need people to bring food each week. A link to the sign up sheet is in the Redeemer Weekly email.
- If you plan to attend, or have a guest you have invited, please let Ben know! We want to have plenty of food available.

Church Meeting Today:

We will have a business meeting immediately after church today to approve the slate of deacon candidates. Please plan to join us.

Small Group Meetings:

Small groups are an important part of our ministry at Redeemer. They offer opportunities to deepen relationships and to love, serve, and pray for one another and our city. If you are interested in joining a group, please email Ben Wheeler: ben@redeemert Tyler.com.

Monthly Youth Meeting:

All junior high and high school students are invited to join us on the third Sunday of the month for a time of fellowship, dinner, and Bible Study.

Bible and Book Studies:

- Men's study meets over breakfast, 7:00 am on Fridays. They are studying the gospel of Luke. Contact Konrad Kern (714-658-4972).
- The women's group is studying the gospel of Matthew on Friday mornings. Contact Patti Babin (361-215-0065) for information.

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic: needs of our city.

- Monday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in our schools.
- Tuesday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in city, state, and local government, and justice systems.
- Wednesday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in local law enforcement, emergency response personnel, and hospitals.
- Thursday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically amongst our immigrant, economically disadvantaged, and minority populations. (See Deuteronomy 10.17-19.)
- Friday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically for a unity within our churches and between our churches in the cause of Christ.
- Saturday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically that the gospel would be proclaimed throughout our city's churches.