

Thursday, 2/2

God desires mercy more than sacrifice. How are you experiencing mercy through this gospel community? How are you extending it to others?

Read Matthew 12:1-13 and First Samuel 21:1-9.

Discuss how Christ has lavished His mercy upon you.

Sing the song "There Is a Redeemer."

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| 1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One. | <i>Chorus</i>
Thank You, oh my Father, |
| 2. Jesus my Redeemer, name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain. <i>chorus</i> | For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'Til |
| 3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever, In that holy place. <i>chorus</i> | The work on earth is done. |

Pray for the poor and hurting here in the Portland area. Pray that God would equip us as a congregation to reach out to those for whom no one seems to care.

Friday, 2/3

Join folks from CTR for Friday morning prayer starting at 7:00 am each Friday morning. It is held at Payson Park Evangelical Church on Ocean Ave.

Read Matthew 12:22-37 and Revelation 20:1-20.

Meditate on Christ's certain victory: "In His name the nations will put their hope."

Praise the Lord for His great victory on the cross and the certainty of His victorious return. Ask Him to help us long for His coming and to live as those expectant of His coming.

Saturday, 2/4

Prepare for worship tomorrow by not only reviewing the following devotional materials, but also by preparing what you can today to avoid rushing tomorrow.

Read Matthew 13:1-23 and Genesis 26:12-24.

Meditate on the blessings of God in a bountiful harvest.

Pray for workers for the harvest field. Pray that God would raise up men and women, boys and girls to be His representatives to a lost world. Pray for church planters to come and join us in New England. Pray for folks at your school, in your neighborhood and work site to be turned from self-seekers to fellow workers in the Lord's harvest.



CHRIST the REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CALL OF SOMETHING GREATER

Matthew 12:38-45

Sermon notes from 1/22/06

Mr. C.S. Per Almqvist

Text

Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you."

³⁹ He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.

⁴² The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here. ⁴³ "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. ⁴⁴ Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

Message

I. . Something greater than Jonah

II. . Something greater than the temple

III. . Something greater than Solomon

Application

Please consider the following, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you:

1. What response have you given to Jesus?
2. Do you say one response and live another?
3. What do you do to know this one greater than a prophet?
4. How well do you believe in this one greater than the temple and the priests?
5. What do you trust in to follow this one greater than a king?

Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

How is Christ our Redeemer? *As our Redeemer, Christ is a prophet, priest, and king in both His humiliation and exaltation.* **How is Christ a prophet?** *As a prophet, Christ reveals the will of God to us for our salvation by His Word and Spirit.* **How is Christ a priest?** *As a priest, Christ offered Himself up once as a sacrifice for us to satisfy divine justice and to reconcile us to God, and He continually intercedes for us.* **How is Christ a king?** *As a king, Christ brings us under His power, rules and defends us, and restrains and conquers all His and all our enemies.* (Westminster Shorter Catechism # 23-26)

Sunday, 1/29

Sunday is uniquely “the Lord’s Day” as we celebrate His resurrection each week. We encourage you to use the bulk of this Sunday immersing yourself in God’s Word.

Read the context for this morning’s sermon: Matthew 11:1-12:50.

Discuss what in the worship service drove home the gospel truth of Christ’s greatness. How will you seek to live in light of it?

Sing one of the songs from the worship service today.

Pray for the congregation of Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church as we consider our mission to Portland and how buildings fit into that vision. Ask the Father to help us live in light of Christ’s greatness.

Monday, 1/30

As you begin your workweek, what things seem greater than Christ? How does the reality of the gospel challenge those things?

Read again the passage from yesterday’s sermon: Matthew 12:38-45.

Meditate on the astounding reality, *“Now One greater than Jonah is here.”* How will His greatness manifest itself in your life and work?

Pray: “Father Almighty, we know that You delight in Your Son Jesus and that He is greater than all priests, prophets, and kings who have come before Him. Teach us to trust in His greatness. Bear fruit of that faith in our lives. Renew us so that we might witness to others the greatness and glory of Christ the Lord.”

Tuesday, 1/31

The identity of Jesus as the promised king is at the heart of the gospel. Matthew drives this point home again and again. Why is it so important?

Read Matthew 11:1-19 and Isaiah 35:1-10.

Discuss what Jesus gave as proof that He was the Christ to John.

Sing the song “At the Cross.”

I know a place, a wonderful place
Where accused and condemned
Find mercy and grace,
Where the wrongs we have done
And the wrongs done to us
Were nailed there with Him,
There on the cross.

At the cross, (at the cross)
He died for our sin.
At the cross, (at the cross)
He gave us life again.
(repeat)
(repeat all)
I know a place, a wonderful place.

Pray for Doug and Per along with several from our presbytery (Jon, Jason, and Doug Domin) who are at a church-planter training conference this week. Pray that our pastors will remain faithful to Christ.

Wednesday, 2/1

God alone is “holy, holy, holy.” How will you live in light of His holiness today? How will you call others to live in light of it too?

Read Matthew 11:20-30 and Philippians 2:1-11.

Meditate on the Lord’s words: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

Pray: “Lord God, You alone are able to save creatures such as we are. We confess our weariness and burden in trying all other means of salvation. We forsake all else to cling to You. Pry all else from our grasp and make us wholly Yours we pray.”

Scripture Memory for the Week

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Matthew 11:27