



Sermon  
Rev. Dr. Lang Yang

**"Redeemed by Christ"**

First Sunday after Christmas  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
12- 29-2024

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

**Exodus 13:13**, "Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. " (ESV). This is the Word of God. (Cross-reference – Exodus 13:2; 34:20, Numbers 3:46; 18:15)

Illustration "Redeemed" (Show several birds free from cage)



When A. J. Gordon was pastor of a church in Boston, he met a young boy in the front of the sanctuary carrying a rusty cage with several birds. Gordon inquired, "What are you going to do with them?" "I guess I'll feed them to an old cat at home." Gordon offered to buy them, and the lad exclaimed, "Mister, you don't want them. They can't sing very well." Gordon replied, "I'll give you \$2 for the cage and the birds." The exchange was made, and the boy went away whistling, happy with his shiny coins. Gordon walked to the back of the church property and let the birds soar into the blue. The following Sunday, he took the empty cage into the pulpit and used it to illustrate his sermon about

Christ's coming to seek and save the lost, paying for them with His precious blood. "That boy told me the birds were not songsters," said Gordon, "but as they winged their way heavenward, it seemed like they were singing, "Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed!" (Source Unknown).

<https://www.family-times.net/illustration/Redeemed/201325/>

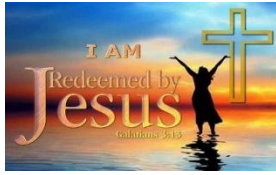
I. In the Old Testament, God gave the Israelites the law that they must make animal sacrifices to be redeemed from their sins. (Show redeem animal)



When God saved His people from Egypt and brought them to Cana, God gave them the Ten Commandments and other laws for them to be free from sins. "Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem." (Exodus 13:13). The Israelites follow the laws is one of the ways to keep their identity as a redeemed people from God. (Show who are you?)

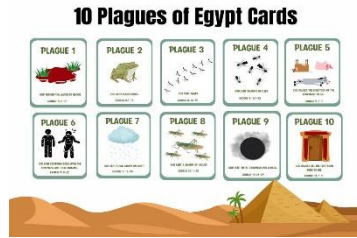
WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

If someone asks you, "Who are you? How would you answer? Some of you will answer, "I am "John, Suzy, Mark, or Mary." In some Asian countries, someone may answer, "I am Lee, my father is Ncaitong, my grandfather is Naolue, and I live in the providence of Xiengkhouang, Laos." Some of you will be confused and ask, "What does that mean?" Why can't you just answer, "I am Tony." Some of you will simply answer, "I am nobody." Have you ever thought if the next person asked you, "Who are you?" and you would answer, "My name is Josh, I have been redeemed by Jesus Christ." (Show redeemed by Christ)

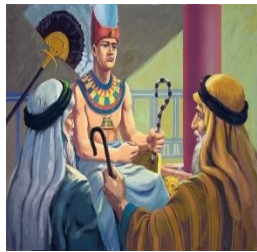


Wow! Imagine each time you share the Gospel with another person and answer, "My name is "Bill, Stephanie, or Tom. Jesus Christ has redeemed me." The person you are witnessing will probably be speechless. In today's world, we mainly introduce our first name and who we are, then share the Gospel. (Show the ten plagues)

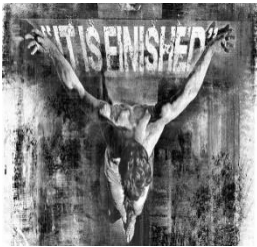
II. In our Old Testament lesson, God commanded the Israelites to have a Lamb or donkey to redeem the firstborn male. The Egyptians were slaves to Pharaoh. God sent Moses to redeem God's people. (Show the ten plagues)



Even after the ten plagues, Pharaoh didn't let God's people go. Because of Pharaoh's hardened heart, he makes them work harder. After the last plagues of having the oldest son killed, Pharaoh finally let God's people go. God's people were finally redeemed. (Exodus 7-11). The truth is, the Israelites are God's first oldest son. God asked Pharaoh to return his first son, and if Pharaoh refused, God would take it back. (Show Pharaoh's hardened heart)



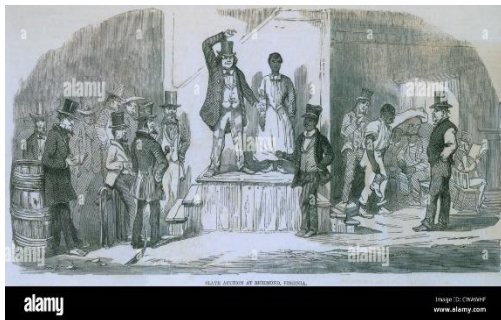
"When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.' (Exodus 13:15). God redeemed His people, and they will forever remember what He did for them. The Apostle Paul writes, "to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." (Colossians 4:5). (Show it is finished, bread and wine)



We humans continue to commit sins. God sent His only Son to redeem the world through dying on the cross. His last Word is "It is finished." (John 19:30). When Jesus says those words, He has redeemed the world back to him. All you have to do is put your trust and faith in Him for eternal life. Instead, people continue to commit sins after sins. Jesus continues to give us chances to redeem us through the

Word and Sacraments. Jesus said, "...Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me." (Matthew 26:26-28). Each time you receive the bread and wine, God has redeemed you.

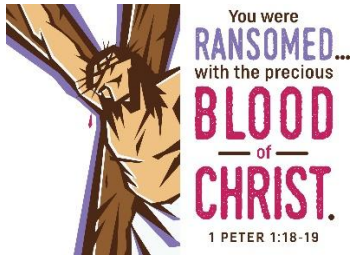
III. A young Englishman traveled to California in search of gold and struck it rich. On his way home, he stops by Louisiana. (Show slave trade)



Approaching a crowd, he noticed they were having a slave auction. A beautiful young black girl was pushed up on the platform to be sold. The bidding begins, and the young man overbids everyone and buys her. She spat at his face and said, "I hate you!" He wiped his face and took her to a store nearby, came out, gave her a paper, and said, "Here are your manumission papers. You are free. These are your freedom papers. You are a free person. That's why I bought you. I bought you to set you free." The beautiful young girl

fell to her knees in front of the miner, tears streaming down her face. "You bought me to set me free! You bought me to set me free!" she said repeatedly.

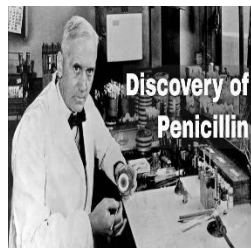
<https://youthays.wordpress.com/a-z-illustration/bought-to-be-freed/>



At one time, we were all slaves to sin and death. But Christ came to redeem us—to pay for our freedom. He bought us with his blood so that we might be free. The Apostle Peter writes, "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." (1 Peter 1:18-19). (Show Winston Churchill)



A gathering of friends at an English estate nearly turned to tragedy when one of the children strayed into deep water. The gardener heard the cries for help, plunged in, and rescued the drowning child. That youngster's name was Winston Churchill. His grateful parents asked the gardener what they could do to reward him. He hesitated, then said, "I wish my son could go to college someday and become a doctor." "We'll see to it," Churchill's parents promised. Years later, while Sir Winston was prime minister of England, he was stricken with pneumonia. (Show Dr. Alexander Fleming)



The country's best physician was summoned. His name was Dr. Alexander Fleming, who discovered and developed penicillin. He was also the son of that gardener who had saved young Winston from drowning. Later, Churchill remarked, "Rarely has one man owed his life twice to the same person." (Ron Hutchcraft, Wake Up Calls, Moody, 1990, p. 22.)

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/i-stand-redeemed-kevin-l-jones-sermon-on-redemption-195595> (Show redemption)



Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, if Jesus didn't redeem you from sins, then you still live in bondage to sins. Because of Christ, you are truly free. How should we serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who redeemed us from sin, death, and hell? People all over the world still sacrifice animals for their sins. The Apostle John writes, "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). Christ is the Lamb who has sacrificed on the cross for the world. You are free,

not guilty, not condemned to hell, but have eternal life in his heavenly Kingdom. People no longer need to sacrifice animals; they must trust and believe in Jesus. (Show redeemed)

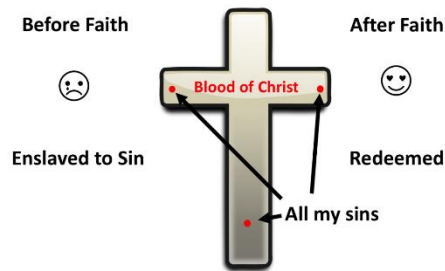


Christ died once for the sins of the world. Today is December 29, 2024, two days from the new year, and 2025 will begin. Remember that we celebrated Christmas four days ago because Jesus came to be the world's Savior. Remember that you have been redeemed, made righteous and holy in God's eyes each day. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and strengthen you each day. May you have a wonderful Happy New Year. Amen.

May the peace of God, which passed all understanding, keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

# Children Message

## Redeemed by Christ



**Theme:** Redemption

**Object:** Several empty pop-can

**Scripture** Galatians 3:14 "He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit." (NIV)

Good morning, boys and girls. Today, I want to share the story of being redeemed by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We celebrate Christmas this past Wednesday, December 25, 2024. This week, we want to focus on how Jesus came to redeem all people. I have several empty cans and plastic pops with me. Do you know what we do with them after we finish drinking them? (*Let them answer*)

Yes! We return it to the store to redeem (regain or get back) the money back. If you throw them away, you lose all the money you already paid for the bottle. To help us remember that we are sinful people. Jesus came to redeem us. We must believe, trust, and believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It is called faith.

Next time you see your parents take the empty bottle to the store to redeem cash, you can remember that Jesus has redeemed you through faith in Him.

Pray after me. Dear Jesus, thank You for being my Savior and redeeming me from my sins. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.