

THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

April, 2024

Redeemer Lutheran Church

redeemerscottsdale.org
7670 E. Jomax Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
Tel.: 480-585-7002

Sunday Worship... 9a

Sunday School... 10:30

Holy Communion
April 7, 21

Virtual Bible Study
Thursdays, 7 PM on
Skype. (No Class 4/11)

Forum & Voters
Forum: Sun., April 7th
Voters: Tu. Apr. 9, 6:30

Collegiate Study Hall
1PM Sunday, April
21st at Redeemer

Ladies' Guild
Sunday, April 21st after
the Divine Service
All Ladies are Welcome!
Seeking New Recruits for
Altar Guild!

Also available to you,
Please Contact Pastor—

- **Private Confession**
- **Christianity 101**
- **Jr. Confirmation**

**The Congregation
Prays: A Guide to
Daily Devotions
In Sunday's Bulletin!**

Painful Lessons from the Recliner Back Home

A recliner is a good thing. It's good to sit down after a hard day's work and maybe relax for a while, and to have a place to sit to read a devotion.

But for the purposes of this little meditation, let's imagine the comfortable recliner that used to sit in the living room at my parents' house. Let it be for us—just for a moment—a picture of our sins: with all the familiar and cozy contours, the nice and inviting soft pillow top, and sweet promise of blissful relaxation and enjoyment.

You see, on a certain day I came inside after working on the lawn and sat in that chair and kicked my feet up—unaware that a nasty wasp that had found its way into the house and had settled into the folds of the chair right where I just put my right leg.

According to St. Paul in **I Corinthians 15.55-57**, death has a sting. The sting of death is sin. St. Paul says that sin has a power. Its power is the Law. If we could see the sting and the death and the dreaded power hiding in the soft and comfortable contours of our favorite sins, would we be so quick to cozy up them?

If we could see ourselves covered in nasty murder hornets ready to become angry and strike in a moment, would

we be so slow to look to the ministry of the church for help?

Jesus looks at us in real danger with mercy and kindness. Jesus looks at us with love. It was His love that moved Him to come and take the sharp, bitter sting of sin. It was His grace that moved Him to place Himself under the Law for us and to absorb for us all its dreadful curse. Jesus says: "I was dead, and behold I am alive forever, and I hold the keys of death and hades."

St. Paul wrote: "**O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?**" ⁵⁶ **The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.** ⁵⁷ **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sin—even when it smarts!—cannot finally harm us if we have forgiveness for all our sins in Christ! Death—even when it frightens us—cannot do us any harm when we are included in Christ, our champion against it. The Law—even when it catches us red-handed—loses all power over us through faith, because Jesus has fulfilled it and taken its punishments in full. Who couldn't do with that kind of joyful courage? Who doesn't need such hope?

See you Sunday.

The Christian Crash Course

A Community-Based Study
on The Bible—Story by Story,
Subject by Subject
Come as you are!

Course Materials,
Refreshments and Babysitting
Provided

Pilot Lesson
Sunday, April 14th at 10:30a