

A wooden cross stands against a bright sun in a blue sky with clouds. The sun is positioned behind the cross, creating a lens flare effect. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a lighter, hazy blue near the horizon. The cross is made of dark wood and is the central focus of the image.

Conversations
with God

What's Your Story?



Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving the Portland Area with the Means of Grace and as a family of believers for over 110 years... as a church, school, preschool, mission, and ministry.

Church Campus: 7610 NE Fremont Street, Pastor – Pastor Thad Bitter (503 .290.6316– call /text)

School Campus: 2252 SE 92nd Street, Principal - Justin Eternick (920.988.1999 – call /text)

Preschool: 2252 SE 92nd Street, ECE Director Tammy Godish (503.312.4230 – call /text)

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost August 20th, 2023

Grace ~ “I am not ashamed of the gospel...”



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

Grace ~ “These are written that you may believe...”



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for over 100 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God’s Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

Grace ~ “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God’s grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Pt. 3:18**

Hymn

CWRED #394: Blessed Are the Saints of God

*Blessed are the saints of God;
They are bought with Christ's own blood.
They are ransomed from the grave;
Life eternal they shall have.
With them numbered may we be - Here and in eternity.*

*They are justified by grace;
They enjoy the Savior's peace.
All their sins are washed away;
They shall stand in God's great day.
With them numbered may we be - Here and in eternity.*

*They are lights upon the earth,
Children of a heav'nly birth.
One with God, with Jesus one,
Glory is in them begun.
With them numbered may we be - Here and in eternity.*

Invocation

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Absolution

PSALM 34

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever!

C: **I sought the LORD, and he answered me.**

M: From all my terrors he delivered me.

C: **His people look to him and are radiant, and their faces will never blush.**

M: This poor man called, and the LORD heard. From all his distress the LORD saved him.

C: **The Angel of the LORD camps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.**

M: Taste and see that the LORD is good.

C: **Blessed is everyone who takes refuge in him.**

Hymn

CWRED #388(1,3): Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven

***Redeemed, restored, forgiven Through Jesus' precious blood,
Heirs of his home in heaven --Oh, praise our pard'ning God!
Praise him in tuneful measures Who gave his Son to die;
Praise him whose sev'nfold treasures Enrich and sanctify.***

***Dear Master, yours the glory, of each recovered soul.
Ah, who can tell the story, of love that made us whole?
Not ours, not ours the merit; To you alone the praise!
Give us a thankful spirit, to serve you all our days.***

The Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

The First Lesson

ISAIAH 60:1-6B

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

² Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.

³ Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.
The wealth of the nations will come to you...
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

The Verse of The Day

ROMANS 8:29-30

Alleluia. Those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called. Those he called, he also justified. And those he justified, he also glorified. Alleluia.

Hymn

CW21 BLUE #481(4): Alleluia! Let Praises Ring

***Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto our triune God we sing;
Blest be his name forever!
With angel hosts let us adore
And sing his praises more and more
For all his grace and favor.
Singing, Ringing:
Holy, holy, God is holy.
Spread the story
Of our God the Lord of glory!***

¹³ Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” Saddened, they stopped.

¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ “What things?” he asked them.

They replied, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. ²¹ But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. ²³ When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn:

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Joyful confession: I am his own!
Following Jesus, I'm never alone.
Born of his Spirit, I am restored,
Strengthened to serve my Savior and Lord.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

The Sermon

THANKSGIVING

The Offering

*An opportunity to give online can also be used at:
[Paypal.me/GracePortland](https://paypal.me/GracePortland) or by utilizing this QR code:*

WELS Connection for August



The Benediction

M: 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.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn:

CWBLUE #930(1-2, 4): Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing -You are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story; Here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;

I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;

I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, my children; I will keep you And give you peace.

