



*Conversations*  
with God

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*What Is Your Treasure? And, Where Is it?*



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)

## The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 23rd, 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 #578 SAINTS OF GOD, THE DAWN IS BRIGHTENING

*Saints of God, the dawn is bright'ning,  
Promise of our coming Lord.  
O'er the earth the fields are rip'ning;  
Louder rings the Master's word:  
Pray for reapers, Pray for reapers  
In the harvest of the Lord.*

*Now, O Lord, fulfill your pleasure,  
Breathe upon your chosen band,  
And with Pentecostal measure  
Send forth reapers o'er our land,  
Faithful reapers, Faithful reapers,  
Gath'ring sheaves for your right hand.*

*Soon shall end the time of weeping;  
Soon the reaping time will come,  
Heav'n and earth together keeping  
God's eternal harvest-home.  
Saints and angels, Saints and angels  
Shout the world's great harvest-home.*

## 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.

## Hymn:

CW21 BLUE: #658 (1) WITH ALL MY HEART I PRAISE YOU, LORD

*With all my heart I praise you, Lord –  
That in your Son you saved me.  
You saw in me what you deplored;  
My grievous sin enslaved me.  
Yet, Lord, you paid the highest price,  
Jesus' atoning sacrifice,  
That you might ever own me.  
Were I to bless you all my days,  
It would be insufficient praise  
For kindness you have shown me.*

## Confession

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

**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.**

**Hymn:** CW21 BLUE: #658 (2) WITH ALL MY HEART I PRAISE YOU, LORD

*When I confess my sin and shame –  
Peace and forgiveness seeking,  
You grant me pardon in your name,  
Before I've finished speaking!  
In love you listen carefully  
To all our sighs of misery,  
Our every need addressing.  
Our guilt should make you turn away;  
Instead you turn toward us and say:  
"Receive my gracious blessing!"*

## Absolution

PSALM 150

**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. Your sins are forgiven. You have peace with God now and forever!

**C:** **Praise the LORD.**

**M:** Praise God in his sanctuary;

**C:** **Praise him in his mighty heavens.**

**M:** Praise him for his acts of power;

**C:** **Praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

**M:** Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

**C:** **Praise him with the harp and lyre,**

**M:** Praise him with timbrel and dancing,

**C:** **Praise him with the strings and pipe,**

**M:** Praise him with the clash of cymbals,

**C:** **Praise him with resounding cymbals.**

**M:** Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

**C:** **Praise the LORD.**

## **The Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **THE WORD**

### **The First Lesson**

EZEKIEL 37:1-4

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath<sup>[a]</sup> enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

### **The Verse of The Day**

JOHN 20:21-23

Alleluia. Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## **Gospel**

MATTHEW 6:19-21 & MATTHEW 13:44-52

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

47 “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. 49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

52 He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

19 “Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Hymn:**

CW21 BLUE: #643 O GOD, OUR LORD, YOUR HOLY WORD

*O God, our Lord, Your holy Word  
Was long a hidden treasure  
Till to its place it was by grace  
Restored in fullest measure.  
For this today, our thanks we say  
And gladly glorify you.  
Your mercy show, and grace bestow -  
On all who still deny you.*

*Salvation true by faith in you  
That is your gospel's preaching,  
The heart and core of Bible lore  
In all its sacred teaching.  
In Christ we must put all our trust,  
Not in our deeds or labor;  
With conscience pure and heart secure  
Love you, Lord, and our neighbor.*

*Lord, you alone this work have done  
By your free grace and favor.  
All who believe will grace receive  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
And though the foe, would overthrow  
Your Word with grim endeavor,  
All he has wrought, must come to naught  
Your Word will stand forever!*

*Since you are mine, my Lord divine,  
Death holds no dreadful terrors;  
Your precious blood, my highest good,  
Has blotted out my errors.  
My thanks to you --your Word is true!  
Fulfill your promise ever,  
And mercy give, while here I live  
And heav'nly bliss forever.*

**The Sermon**

MATTHEW 6:19-21 & MATTHEW 13:44-52

## 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.

## THANKSGIVING

### The Offering

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



### The Prayer of the Church & Lord's Prayer

### The Benediction

### Closing Hymn:

CW21 (BLUE) #746(1, 7, 3): I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

*I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story Because I know it's true;  
It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.  
I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.*

*The Savior of all people, has brought his peace to you;  
Now go and tell the story, for others need it too.  
To every land and nation, ring out the gospel call.  
Proclaim that Christ has risen, and grants his peace to all!  
I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story, For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long.  
I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.*