



CLEANSE ME WITH HYSSOP,
AND I WILL BE CLEAN;
WASH ME, AND I WILL
be whiter than snow.

PSALM 51:7



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.

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The Sixth Sunday of Epiphany February 12, 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**

OPENING SONG:

CW21 BLUE #579: His Mercy Is More

Two extra measures of interlude precede stanza 3.

The refrain for stanza 3 is sung three times (twice, with no break between, then a final time).



1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,
3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;
what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!
his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.



thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;



our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more. Praise the Lord!
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.



His mer - cy is more! Strong - er than dark - ness,



new ev - 'ry morn; our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN: CW21 Blue #654 (1) “Jesus Sinners Does Receive”

Jesus sinners does receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder

Who in sin's delusions live: And from God and heaven wander.

Here is hope for all who grieve - Jesus sinners does receive!

CONFESSION

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

C: **according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

M: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

C: **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

M: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

C: **Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

M: Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;

C: **you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

M: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

C: **wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

M: Hide your face from my sins

C: **and blot out all my iniquity.**

M: Create in me a pure heart, O God,

C: **and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

M: Do not cast me from your presence

C: **or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

M: Restore to me the joy of your salvation

C: **and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

HYMN: CW21 Blue #654 (2,3) “Jesus Sinners Does Receive”

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich grace revealing,

Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here their ills have perfect healing

Who with humble hearts believe Jesus sinners does receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the Lord forsaken;

Weary souls who lost their way Are by Christ, the shepherd, taken

In his arms that they may live Jesus sinners does receive.

ABSOLUTION

M: “Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD. Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow. Though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool.” In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN:

CW21 Blue #654 (5,6) “**Jesus Sinners Does Receive**”

*Oh, how blest is it to know, Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow; By your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe - Jesus sinners does receive!*

*Now my conscience is at peace, from the law I stand acquitted.
Christ has purchased my release, and my every sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve; Jesus sinners does receive.*

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 11:1-15; 12:1-7:13

Springtime arrived, the time when kings go out to war. David sent Joab out with his officers and with all Israel. They ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed in Jerusalem.

²One evening David had gotten up from his couch and was walking around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very good looking. ³David sent to inquire about the woman, and he was told, “Isn’t this Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

⁴David sent messengers to bring her. She came to him, and he lay down with her. (She had been purifying herself from her ceremonial uncleanness.) She then returned

to her house. ⁵The woman became pregnant, so she sent a message and told David, “I am pregnant.”

⁶David sent a message to Joab, “Send Uriah the Hittite to me.” So Joab sent Uriah to David, ⁷and Uriah came to him.

David asked how Joab and the troops were doing, and how the war effort was going.

⁸Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.”

When Uriah went out from the palace, the king sent a gift to him. ⁹But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all the servants of his master. He did not go down to his own house.

¹⁰David was informed, “Uriah has not gone down to his house.” So David said to Uriah, “Haven’t you come a long distance? Why didn’t you go down to your house?”

¹¹Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are living in shelters, and my master Joab and the servants of my master are camped on the bare ground in the open countryside. Should I go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie down with my wife? By your life, as surely as you live, I will not do such a thing.”

¹²Then David said to Uriah, “Stay here today also. Tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³David summoned him, and Uriah ate as his guest, and David got him drunk. But in the evening he went and slept on his mat where the servants of his master were. He did not go to his own house.

¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and he sent it in the hands of Uriah. ¹⁵In the letter he wrote, “Station Uriah opposite the fiercest fighting. Then withdraw from behind him so that he will be struck down and die.”

So the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came and told him this:

There were two men in a city. One was rich and one poor. ²The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds. ³The poor man did not own anything except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He raised it so that it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his food and drank from his cup. It slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man was unwilling to take an animal from his flock or from his herd to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. So he took the lamb from the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

⁵David’s anger flared up against that man. He said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this is as good as dead. ⁶In place of that lamb, he will restore four lambs, because he did this and had no pity.”

⁷Nathan told David, “You are the man!”

¹³David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan said to David, “The LORD himself has taken away your sin. You will not die.

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone



Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,*
whose sins are covered.

When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;*
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you*
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"*
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.



You are my *h*iding place;*
you will protect me from *t*rouble.

Many are the woes of the *w*icked,*
but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds
those who *t*rust in him.

Glory be to the Father and *t*o the Son*
and to the Holy *S*pirit,
as it was in the *b*eginning,*
is now, and will be forever. *A*men.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life^[a] because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Psalm 51:7

Alleluia! Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Alleluia!

⁹ Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’

¹³ “However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

¹⁴ “I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

HYMN:CW21 BLUE #593: **Holy Spirit, Light Divine**

*Holy Spirit, Light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the gloom of night away; Turn the darkness into day.*

*Holy Spirit, Love divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In your mercy pity me; From sin's bondage set me free.*

*Holy Spirit, Joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Fill me with your heav'nly peace; Let it grow and still increase.*

*Holy Spirit, Pow'r divine, Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne; Reign supreme and reign alone.*

*Holy Spirit, fill my heart; Cleanse my life in ev'ry part;
Your own temple I would be Now and for eternity.*

SERMON

Psalm 51:7 based on 2 Samuel 11 & 12

THE 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 or by utilizing this QR code:



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – CW Red Page 124

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who has called us to be his own that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil’s power.

C: By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

M: Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ’s body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting. Amen.

HYMN:

CW21 Blue #654 (4) "Jesus Sinners Does Receive"

***I, a sinner, come to you; With a penitent confession.
Savior, show me mercy, too; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve - Jesus sinners does receive!***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

HYMN:

CW21 Blue #654 (7) "Jesus Sinners Does Receive"

***Jesus sinners does receive. Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave Jesus sinners does receive.***

THE DISTRIBUTION

Thank you for honoring our practice of "close" communion. The Bible teaches that participating in the Lord's Supper is an expression of complete unity of faith (1 Cor. 10:17). We lovingly ask, therefore, that before joining in this, the highest act of fellowship, a unity of faith based on the Bible be established through membership in this congregation or in a sister congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy. If you would like to discuss "close" communion or any other spiritual matter with the pastor, please indicate this on the Friendship Register.

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

CW21 Blue #578: Chief of Sinners Though I Be

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 upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

CW21 Blue #721 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged --Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness --Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge --Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a solace there.*

