



THE
CRUCIBLE
TO
CALVARY



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)

Lent 2 – February 25, 2024

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**

Refrain



To my pre-cious Lord I bring my flask of fra-grant oil;



kneel-ing down, I kiss his feet, a - noint them with the oil.



- 1 Je - sus, who for my sake walked the road to Cal - va - ry,
- 2 Je - sus, who for my sake had his feet nailed to the cross,
- 3 When in clouds of glo - ry you come back to earth a - gain,



Refrain



with each step has marked the im - print of his love for me.
with his blood has washed and healed me, paid the heav - y cost.
Je - sus, with your love, em - brace and claim me as your friend.



CONFESSION

M: I rejoiced with those who said to me,

C: **Let us go to the house of the LORD.**

M: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

-- Psalm 32:1&2

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.**

THE ABSOLUTION

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! "Rejoice in the LORD and celebrate, all you righteous, and shout joyfully, all you upright in heart." (Psalm 32:11)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Job 1:13-22

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the female donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ when the Sabceans swooped down and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, “The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the flocks and the servants and consumed them, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, “The Chaldean formed three raiding parties and plundered the camels and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and were drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother. ¹⁹ Suddenly a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it collapsed on the young people, and they died, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

²⁰ Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshipped. ²¹ Then he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will return. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. May the name of the LORD be blessed.”

²² In all this, Job did not sin or blame God.

HYMN

LAPPY #296 (1): There Is a Green Hill Far Away

*There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
where our dear Lord was crucified
who died to save us all.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace^[a] with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory^[a] of God.

³ Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, ⁴ and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. ⁵ And hope will not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us. ⁶ For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸ But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰ For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹ And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

HYMN

LAPPY #296 (2): There Is a Green Hill Far Away

*We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.*

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

Mark 8:34

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

HYMN

LAPPY #296 (3): There Is a Green Hill Far Away

*He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.*

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 22:31-34

³¹ The Lord said, "Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers."

³³ He said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death!"

³⁴ But Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know me."

HYMN

LAPPY #296 (4): There Is a Green Hill Far Away

*There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin,
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven and let us in.*

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN

CW Red #347: Jesus! and Shall It Ever Be

Jesus! and shall it ever be, a mortal man ashamed of thee?

Ashamed of thee, whom angels praise, whose glories shine through endless days?

Ashamed of Jesus? Just as soon, let midnight be ashamed of noon.

'Tis midnight with my soul till he, bright Morning Star, bids darkness flee.

Ashamed of Jesus, that dear friend, on whom my hopes of heav'n depend?

No; when I blush, be this my shame, that I no more revere his name.

Ashamed of Jesus? Yes, I may when I've no guilt to wash away,

No tear to wipe, no good to crave, no fear to quell, no soul to save.

Till then --nor is my boasting vain, till then I boast a Savior slain;

And oh, may this my glory be: That Christ is not ashamed of me.

SERMON

Matthew 26:57-58; 69-75

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the experts in the law and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸ Peter was following him at a distance and went as far as the courtyard of the high priest. He went inside and sat down with the guards to see how it would turn out.

⁶⁹ As Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, “You were also with Jesus the Galilean.”

⁷⁰ But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, “I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

⁷¹ When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁷² Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, “I do not know the man.”

⁷³ After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, “Surely you are also one of them because even your accent gives you away.”

⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and to swear, “I do not know the man!” Just then the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

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:



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

M: I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me the Lord's Prayer as Christ our Lord taught us.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

M: Here we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

C: Your kingdom come.

M: We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, his Son, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

C: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

M: We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

C: Give us today our daily bread.

M: We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for all our needs.

C: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

M: We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

C: Lead us not into temptation.

M: We pray here that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

C: But deliver us from evil.

M: And finally we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul now and forever.

C: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

M: All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts "Amen," trusting without doubt that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you will received it, and it will be yours."

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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome.

HYMN OF PRAISE

CW21 #523 (1): How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.*

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 OF PRAISE

CW21 #523 (2): How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.*

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 OF PRAISE

CW21 #523 (3): How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.*

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. We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW21 #525: Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

*Come, behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the king
He the theme of Heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now, the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us.*

*Come, behold the wondrous mystery
He is the perfect son of man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ, the great and sure fulfilment
Of the law in Him, we stand.*

*Come, behold the wondrous mystery
Christ, the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold.*

*Come, behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death, the God of life
But no grave could ever restrain Him
Praise the Lord, He is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes*

THE BENEDICTION

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine upon and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

HYMN:

CW21 Blue #402: Glory Be to Jesus

*Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood, from his sacred veins.*

*Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.*

*Blest through endless ages be the precious stream
Which from endless torments did the world redeem.*

*Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies,
But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.*

*Oft as earth exulting lifts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.*

*Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder praise the precious blood!*