

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 4 – March 10, 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, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

HYMN

CW21 Blue #522 (1,4): Beautiful Savior

*Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.*

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine!*

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 59:14-20

¹⁴ Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away, for truth stumbles in the city square, and honesty cannot enter it. ¹⁵ The truth is missing, and anyone who turns from evil makes himself prey. The LORD looked and saw something evil—there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no one. He was appalled that there was no one who could intervene. So his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness supported him. ¹⁷ He clothed himself with righteousness like armor and wore a helmet of salvation on his head. He dressed in garments for vengeance, and he wrapped himself with zeal like a cloak. ¹⁸ He will repay in full what they have earned, namely, wrath to his foes and full payment to his enemies. He will repay even the distant coastlands. ¹⁹ From the west they will fear the LORD's name, and from the rising of the sun they will fear his glory, for he will come like a raging river, driven by the Spirit of the LORD. ²⁰ Then a redeemer will come for Zion and for those in Jacob who turn from rebellion. This is the declaration of the LORD.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 119 E

Thanks to our cantor, Jacob Meyer, who will sing the verse and the congregation is asked to join in the refrain and the "Glory be to the Father..."

Refrain

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your stat - utes.

Your statutes are / wonderful;
therefore I o-/bey them.

The unfolding of your words / gives light;
it gives understanding to the / simple.

Turn to me and have mer-/cy on me,

as you always do to those who / love your name. *Refrain*

Direct my footsteps according / to your word;
let no sin rule / over me.
Redeem me from human op-/pression,
that I may obey your / precepts.
Make your face shine on your / servant
and teach me / your decrees.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be-/ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 18:33-40

³³ Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

³⁴ Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

³⁶ Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here."

³⁷ "You are a king then?" Pilate asked.

Jesus answered, "I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate said to him.

After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, "I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So do you want me to release the King of the Jews for you?"

⁴⁰ Then they shouted back, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" (Now Barabbas was a rebel.)

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

CW21 Blue #543: O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

*O Jesus, King most wonderful, O Majesty renowned,
O Conqueror invincible, in whom all joys are found,*

*When once you visit darkened hearts, then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs, then kindles love divine.*

*O Jesus, Light of all below, O Fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know, all that we can desire,*

*May ev'ry heart confess your name, forever you adore,
Enkindled with the Spirit's flame to love you more and more.*

*Oh, may our tongues forever bless and honor you alone,
And may we in our lives express The image of your own!*

SERMON

John 18:33-40

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: O God, through Jesus' sacrifice and triumphant resurrection you have restored us as your forgiven children. In his name we pray:

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

M: Dear Lord, with these words you tenderly invite us to believe that you are our true Father and that we may pray to you boldly and confidently as dear children ask their dear father.

C: **Hallowed be thy name.**

M: Help us to know you through your inspired Word and to live by it as children in your family.

C: **Thy kingdom come.**

M: Give us your Holy Spirit to rule in our hearts, and use us to extend your kingdom of grace to others.

C: **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

M: Make us zealous to carry out your will as gladly as the angels do, and to conform our will to yours.

C: **Give us this day our daily bread.**

M: Merciful Lord, since you are the provider of all things necessary for our bodies; fill us with trust.

C: **And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

M: You who have forgiven all our sins, help us gladly to forgive and to do good to those who wrong us.

C: **And lead us not into temptation.**

M: We know the devil seeks to destroy our souls and the world lures us to ruin by appealing to the desires of our flesh. Guard us from the poison of misbelief and the trap of unrepented sin.

C: But deliver us from evil.

M: *(Include any special prayer requests)* Keep safe our bodies and souls, our property and honor, and above all send the Holy Spirit to preserve our faith in Christ which leads to life everlasting.

C: For thine is the kingdom,

M: For all these petitions we look to you as King of Kings and Lord of your church.

C: and the power,

M: You alone hold the power to grant our requests.

C: and the glory forever and ever.

M: We worship you from whom all blessings flow and relying on Jesus, who paid for all our sins and made us acceptable in your sight, we pray with confidence:

C: Amen. It shall be so.

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 Blue #824 (5): This Is the Threefold Truth

***This is the threefold truth which, if we hold it fast,
Changes the world and us and brings us home at last:
Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!***

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 Blue #824(4): This Is the Threefold Truth

By this we are upheld when doubt or grief assails
Our Christian faith and love, and only grace avails:
Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

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 Blue #824(3): This Is the Threefold Truth

On this we fix our minds as, kneeling side by side,
We take the bread and wine, take him, the Crucified:
Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

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 Blue #667: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

BENEDICTION & CLOSING HYMN

“Glorify Thy Name”

Please note the special instructions for verse 4.

1. **Father, we love You.**
We worship and adore You.
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy Name. Glorify Thy Name.
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

 2. **Jesus, we love You.**
We worship and adore You.
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy Name. Glorify Thy Name.
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

 3. **Spirit, we love You.**
We worship and adore You.
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy Name. Glorify Thy Name.
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

 4. **The congregation hums the first three lines of the verse as the benediction is spoken by the minister:**
- 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.

Following the words of the benediction all join in singing:

Glorify Thy Name! Glorify Thy Name!
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth!

Worship Notes

Name _____

Date _____

for kids

Songs We Sang



The Scripture Text Was: _____

What was the sermon about?

Draw a picture from the lesson.



Words I Don't Know:

