



Conversations
with God

What Does It Mean To Be Forgiven?



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 Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost August 13th, 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 Hymn

CW21 Blue #913: Come Away from Rush and Hurry

*Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry,
come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor,
life's demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered
here to seek and find God's face.*

*In the pastures of God's goodness
we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy
we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence
all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing
into service we are led.*

*Come, then, children, with your burdens--
life's confusions, fears and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus;
take instead his kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them--
he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment
when to self we gladly die.*

Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

M: Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

C: **I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever.
Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever.**

The Hymn:

CW21 Blue #748 (1): Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

*Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
give to God our all, our best:
service hearty, thorough, honest,
with a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving,
all our time to him belong;
praise him, then, with true devotion,
come before him with a song.*

Confession of Sin

M: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with you there is forgiveness; Therefore, you are feared.

M: He forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

C: He redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

M: The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

C: The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

M: He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C: As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

The Hymn:

CW21 Blue #748 (2): Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

*By his mercy, by his bounty,
by the gift of Christ, his Son,
what great goodness he has shown us,
what high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely,
yield our bodies and our souls,
thankful that his love protects us,
that his wisdom all controls.*

Absolution

- M: The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.
- C: **As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him.**
- M: Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the Lord, O my soul.
- C: **My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name forever and ever.**

The Hymn:

CW21 Blue #748 (3): Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

*Gracious Lord, accept our service
for the sake of Christ, your Son;
lo, our hope abides now only
in the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us, help and guide us,
watch to comfort and restore,
till in heav'n we rest rejoicing,
praising you forevermore.*

The Prayer of the Day

- M: O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

The Word

The First Lesson

Genesis 32:7-12; 22-30

⁷ So Jacob was terrified and very distressed. He divided the people who were with him, as well as the flocks, and the herds, and the camels, into two camps. ⁸ He said, "If Esau comes to one camp and strikes it, then the other camp will escape." ⁹ Jacob said, "God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD, who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will do good for you,' ¹⁰ I am not worthy of even a bit of all the mercy and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for I crossed over this Jordan with just my staff, and now I have

grown into two camps. ¹¹ Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid that he will come and strike me and the mothers, as well as the children. ¹² You said, 'I will surely do good for you and make your descendants like the grains of sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because there are so many.'"

²² He got up that night and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and he also sent his possessions across. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and he wrestled with a man there until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not defeat him, he touched the socket of his thigh, and the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated as he wrestled. ²⁶ The man said, "Let me go. It's daybreak."

Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ Then he said to him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

²⁸ Then he said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have fought with God and with men, and you have won."

²⁹ Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name."

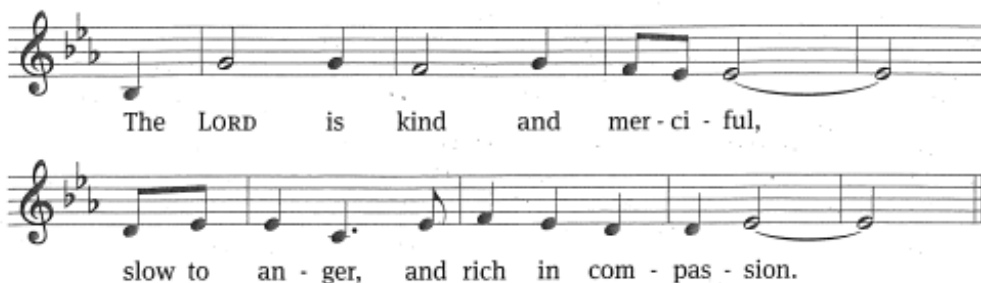
He said, "Why do you ask what my name is?" Then he blessed him there.

³⁰ Jacob named the place Peniel, because he said, "I have seen God face-to-face, and my life has been spared."

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 103

Refrain



The LORD is kind and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and rich in com - pas - sion.

Tone



Praise the LORD, / my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his / holy name—

who forgives / all your sins
and heals all your dis-/eases,
who redeems your life / from the pit
and crowns you with love and com-/passion,
who satisfies your desires / with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the / eagle's. *Refrain*

The LORD is kind and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an-ger, and rich in com-pas-sion.

The LORD is compassionate and / gracious,
slow to anger, abound-/ing in love.
He does not treat us as our / sins deserve
or repay us according to our in-/iquities.
For as high as the heavens are a-/bove the earth,
so great is his love for those who / fear him;
as far as the east is / from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions / from us.
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 LORD is kind and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an-ger, and rich in com-pas-sion.

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶ “Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹ “So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³² “Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵ “This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

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.

Hymn

CW21 Blue #812: Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor

*Christ, the sure and steady Anchor
In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt blow through me
And my sails have all been torn
In the suffering, in the sorrow
When my sinking hopes are few
I will hold fast to the Anchor
It shall never be removed*

*Christ, the sure and steady Anchor
While the tempest rages on
When temptation claims the battle
And it seems the night has won
Deeper still then goes the Anchor
Though I justly stand accused
I will hold fast to the Anchor
It shall never be removed*

*Christ, the sure and steady Anchor
Through the floods of unbelief
Hopeless somehow, O my soul now
Lift your eyes to Calvary
This my ballast of assurance
See His love forever proved
I will hold fast to the Anchor
It shall never be removed*

*Christ, the sure and steady Anchor
As we face the wave of death
When these trials give way to glory
And we draw our final breath
We will cross that great horizon
Clouds behind and life secure
And the calm will be the better
For the storms that we endure*

*Christ, the shore of our salvation
Ever faithful, ever true
We will hold fast to the Anchor
It shall never be removed*

Our Thanksgiving

The Offering

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



Prayer of the Church

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.

The Hymn:

CW21 Blue #673 (1 – half verse): O Lord, We Praise You

*O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you,
In thanksgiving bow before you.
Here with your body and your blood you nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish.
O Lord, have mercy.*

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.

The Hymn: CW21 Blue #673 (2 – half verse): O Lord, We Praise You
*Your holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to you could bind us;
May this feast of that remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!*

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.

The Hymn: CW21 Blue #673 (3 – half verse): O Lord, We Praise You
*May God bestow on us his grace and favor
To please him with our behavior
And live together here in love and union,
Cherishing our blest communion.
O Lord, have mercy!*

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.

The Benediction / Hymn:

CW21: #929: May the Peace of God

***May the peace of God our heav'nly Father
And the grace of Christ the risen Son
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within His Love***

Refrain:

***And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain
Christ eternal King of kings.***

***May this peace which passes understanding
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his Communion
Make us one in Spirit and in heart.***

Refrain:

***And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain
Christ eternal King of kings.***