



IF
GOD

IS FOR US

WHO CAN BE

Against us?

ROMANS 8:31



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 Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost September 10, 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**

1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
 2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the'
 4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—

call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
 Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to

they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.
 wound-ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.
 neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
 win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
 When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
 And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -
 As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
 out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for
 merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
 tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which he died - an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
 till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
 for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.



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.**

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.**

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.**

Hymn

CW21 Blue #870 (4) "O Church, Arise"

*So Spirit, come, put strength in ev'ry stride,
Give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory*

The Prayer of the Day

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Word

The First Lesson

1 Samuel 17:32-51

³² David said to Saul, “Do not let anyone lose heart because of this Philistine! Your servant will go and fight him.”

³³ But Saul said to David, “You cannot go against this Philistine to fight with him, because you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior since he was a youth.”

³⁴ David said to Saul, “Your servant has been taking care of his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it and struck it and rescued the lamb out of its mouth. When the lion reared up against me, I grabbed it by its mane, struck it, and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant struck both the lion and the bear.

This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the ranks of the living God.” ³⁷ David added, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go then! May the LORD be with you.” ³⁸ So Saul dressed David in his own gear. He placed a bronze helmet on his head and dressed him in scaled body armor. ³⁹ David strapped his sword over his gear. David tried to walk around in them, since he had never trained with this kind of equipment before.

David said to Saul, “I cannot go in these, because I have never trained with them.” So David took them off.

⁴⁰ Then David took his staff in his hand and picked five smooth stones out of the stream bed and put them into the pouch of his shepherd’s bag. He took his sling in his hand and approached the Philistine.

⁴¹ The Philistine kept walking and got closer and closer to David. The man who was carrying his shield was walking ahead of him. ⁴² When the Philistine got a good look at David, he despised him, because David was just a boy, nothing but a good-looking, red-headed boy.

⁴³ The Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come against me with sticks?” The Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will feed your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the countryside.”

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ Today the LORD will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth. Then all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and all those gathered here will know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear, for the battle belongs to the LORD, and he will deliver you into our hand.”

⁴⁸ Then, when the Philistine started advancing to attack David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ David put his hand into his bag, took a stone from it, shot it from his sling, and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown to the ground.

⁵⁰ So David defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone. He struck the Philistine and killed him, even though David did not have a sword in his hand. ⁵¹ So David ran, stood over the Philistine, took hold of his sword, drew it out of its sheath, killed him, and cut off his head with it.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

Hymn

CW21 Blue #866 (1) “If God Had Not Been on Our Side”

*If God had not been on our side
And had not come to aid us,
Our foes with all their pow'r and pride
Would surely have dismayed us,
For we, his flock, would have to fear
The devil's wolves, both far and near,
Who rise in might against us.*

The First Lesson

Philippians 4:10-13

¹⁰ I rejoice greatly in the Lord now that you have revived your concern for me once again. Actually, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I lack anything; in fact, I have learned to be content in any circumstances in which I find myself. ¹² I know what it is to live in humble circumstances, and I know what it is to have more than enough. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, while being full or hungry, while having plenty or not enough. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

***Blest be the Lord, who foiled their threat
That they could not devour us.
Our souls, like birds, escaped their net;
They could not overpow'r us.
The snare is broken --we are free!
Our helper and our strength is he
Who made the earth and heavens.***

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:1-20

After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. So ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go your way. Look, I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not carry a money bag or traveler's bag or sandals. Do not greet anyone along the way. ⁵ Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' ⁶ And if a peaceful person is there, your peace will rest on him, but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in that same house, eating and drinking what they give you, because the worker is worthy of his pay. Do not keep moving from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they welcome you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are in the town and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near you.'

¹⁰ "But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust from your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this: The kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom on that day than for that town.

¹³ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will be brought down to hell. ¹⁶ Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name!"

¹⁸ He told them, "I was watching Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. And nothing will ever harm you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names have been written in heaven."

The Apostle's 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.

The Hymn:

CW21 Blue #872: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross!

Lift high his royal banner; It must not suffer loss.

From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army shall he lead

Till ev'ry foe is vanquished And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey;

Forth to the mighty conflict In this his glorious day!

Ye that are brave, now serve him Against unnumbered foes;

Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in his strength alone.

The arm of flesh will fail you; Ye dare not trust your own.

Put on the gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer;

Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long;

This day the noise of battle, The next, the victor's song.

To him that overcometh A crown of life shall be;

He with the King of glory Shall reign eternally.

The Sermon

1 Samuel 17:32-51

Our Thanksgiving

The Offering

An opportunity to give online can also be used at [Paypal.me/GracePortland](https://paypal.me/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 #672 (1): Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ, our God, to earth descending,
Comes our homage to command.*

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 #672 (2): Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

***King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human likeness,
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.***

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 #672 (3-4): Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

***Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spread its vanguard on the way
As the Light from Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.***

***At his feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!***

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

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 #870 (1) "O Church, Arise"

***O, Church arise and put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our captain
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle cry is love
Reaching out to those in darkness.***