



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.

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Pentecost 17 September 24th, 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**

The Opening Hymn

CW21 Blue #867 (1-3) "Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near"
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1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your
2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and
3 Should perse - cu - tion rage and flame, still
4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or

Sav - ior's gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful
if the con - flict should be long, the Lord will
trust in your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery
sore af - flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis -

Word you can be - lieve, that as your days your
make the tempt - er flee, that as your days your
tri - als you shall see that as your days your
tress, or pov - er - ty, still as your days your

1 strength shall be. v. 2
2-4 strength shall be. Refrain
strength shall be. Refrain
strength shall be. Refrain

Refrain

So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one;

the bat - tle's fierce, but the vic - t'ry's won!

God shall sup - ply all that you need;

yes, as your days your strength shall be.

The Invocation

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

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sins

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

The Hymn Response CW Red #468 (vs 1-2): **My God, My Father, Make Me Strong**

*My God, my Father, make me strong,
When tasks of life seem hard and long,
To greet them with this triumph song: Your will be done.*

*Draw from my timid eyes the veil
To show, where earthly forces fail,
Your pow'r and love must still prevail Your will be done.*

The Absolution

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

The Hymn Response CW Red #468 (vs 3-4): **My God, My Father, Make Me Strong**

*With confident and humble mind
In service freedom I will find,
Praying through ev'ry toil assigned: Your will be done.*

*What seems impossible I dare;
Yours is the call and yours the care.
Your wisdom shall the way prepare Your will be done.*

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.

C: **Amen.**

The Hymn Response CW Red #468 (vs 5): **My God, My Father, Make Me Strong**

Heav'n's music chimes the glad days in;

Hope soars beyond death, pain, and sin;

Faith shouts in triumph, Love must win Your will be done!

The Word

The First Lesson:

Joshua 5:13 - 6:5
Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)

¹³When Joshua was at Jericho, he looked up and saw a man was standing right there in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went to him and said, “Are you one of us or one of our enemies?”

¹⁴The man said, “Neither! I have now come as the commander of the army of the LORD.” Joshua fell with his face to the ground and worshipped. Then he said to him, “What does my Lord have to say to his servant?”

¹⁵The commander of the army of the LORD said to Joshua, “Take your sandals off your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy.” So Joshua did so.

Jericho was shut up tight because of the Israelites. There was no one going out and no one coming in. ²So the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho and its king into your hands even though they are strong warriors. ³You shall march around the city with all the fighting men. Circle the city one time. Do this for six days. ⁴Seven priests shall carry seven special ram’s horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times with the priests blowing the ram’s horns. ⁵When there is a long blast on the special ram’s horn of jubilee, when you hear the sound of the ram’s horn, all the people shall shout with a loud war cry. Then the wall of the city will collapse on itself, and the people will go up into the city, one man after another.”

The Psalm of the Day:

CW21 Blue - Psalm 46

Jacob Meyer will serve as Psalm Cantor

Refrain



The LORD Al - might - y is
with us; the God of Ja - cob is our for - tress.

Tone



God is our ref-/uge and strength,
an ever-present help in / trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea,
though its waters / roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their / surging. *Refrain*

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-/y of God,
the holy place where the Most / High dwells.
God is within her, she / will not fall;
God will help her at / break of day.
"Be still, and know that / I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth."

**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 Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 12:22-37
Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)

²² Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and unable to speak was brought to him. Jesus healed him so that he was able to speak and to see. ²³ All the people were amazed and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is destroyed, and every town or household divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? ²⁷ Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man’s house and take his goods, unless he first ties up the strong man? Only then can he plunder his house.

³⁰ “Whoever is not with me is against me. And whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven every sin and blasphemy, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven—either in this age or in the one to come.

³³ “Either make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad. Indeed, a tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴ You offspring of vipers! How can you say anything good, since you are evil? For what the mouth speaks flows from the heart. ³⁵ The good man brings good out of his good treasure, and the evil man brings evil out of his evil treasure. ³⁶ I tell you that on the day of judgment people will give account of every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ In fact by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

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.

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; Hold me with thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer, Be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises I will ever give to thee.*

The Sermon

Joshua 5:13 - 6:5

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:



The 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

The 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 Response

CW21 Blue #670 (1): I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

*I come, O Savior, to your table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able
To satisfy and make me whole.
Lord, may your body and your blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

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 Response

CW21 Blue #670 (5): I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

*Your holy heart has one obsession,
One blessed thing it burns to do -
To cleanse the sinner from transgression;
So I, a sinner, come to you.
Lord, may your body and your blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

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 Response

CW21 Blue #670 (10): I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

***My heart has now become your dwelling,
O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, your praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally.
Lord, may your body and your blood
Be for my soul the highest good!***

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.**

The Closing Hymn

CW21 Blue #869 (1,4): Onward, Christian Soldiers

***Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.
Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See his banners go!
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.***

***Onward, then, ye faithful; Join the happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices, In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor - Unto Christ the King;
This through countless ages Saints and angels sing.
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.***

THE WALLS OF JERICHO

Be strong and of a good courage;

Joshua 1:9

