

But we have this

TREASURE IN CLAY JARS

II Corinthians
4:7-10
NSRV



...so that
it may be
made clear that
this extraordinary power
belongs to God and does
not come from us. We
are afflicted in every way,
but not crushed; perplexed,
but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck
down but not destroyed; always
carrying in the body the death
of Jesus, so that the life
of Jesus may also be
made visible in our bodies.

Angela Brown



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 6 June 30, 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**

INVOCATION

M: To the church of God, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1: 2-3)

C: **And also with you.**

HYMN

CW21 Blue #854 (1): Church of God Elect and Glorious

Sung to tune of CW Red #277

AUSTRIA

*Church of God, elect and glorious,
Holy nation, chosen race;
Called as God's own special people,
Royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of your calling,
Show to all his mighty deeds;
Tell of love that knows no limits,
Grace that meets all human needs.*

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth, “sinful from the time my mother conceived me”. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. “Yet while we were still sinners and enemies of God Christ died for us.” But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt. (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5)**

HYMN

CW21 Blue #854 (2): Church of God Elect and Glorious

*God has called you out of darkness,
into his most marvelous light;
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you,
that God's name is glorified;
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.*

ABSOLUTION

M: “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. (Isaiah 1:18).

C: **Amen.**

HYMN

CW21 Blue #854 (3 &4): Church of God Elect and Glorious

*Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love;
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel a Father's care;
that they too may know his welcome,
and his countless blessings share.*

*Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends;
strong in faith and swift to answer,
each command your master sends:
royal priests, fulfil your calling,
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service,
sing his praise, his love declare.*

Prayer of the Day

- M: O God, the strength of all who trust in you, mercifully hear our prayers. Be gracious to us in our weakness and give us strength to keep your commandments in all we say and do; 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

Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down. Mountains then would quake because of your presence. ²As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil, make your name known to your adversaries. Then nations would quake in your presence. ³You did amazing things that we did not expect. You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence. ⁴From ancient times no one has heard. No ear has understood. No eye has seen any god except you, who goes into action for the one who waits for him. ⁵You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness, who remembers you by walking in your ways! But you were angry because we sinned. We have remained in our sins for a long time. Can we still be saved? ⁶All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth. All of us have withered like a leaf, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you. So you hid your face from us. You made us melt by the power of our guilt. ⁸But now, LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be angry, LORD, without limit. Do not remember our guilt forever. Please look closely. All of us are your people.

HYMN

CW Red #557 (1): On Galilee's High Mountain

*On Galilee's high mountain
Christ gave the great command
In words of strength and promise
Which all can understand:
"All pow'r to me is given
To do what I shall choose.
Therefore, I send my children;
Their witness I will use."*

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:6-15

6 For the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," is the same one who made light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

7 We hold this treasure in clay jars to show that its extraordinary power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not despairing; 9 persecuted, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 To be sure, while we are living we are continually being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. 12 So then, death is working in us, but life is working in you.

13 Since we have that same spirit of faith, which corresponds to what is written: "I believed; therefore, I have spoken," we also believe, and therefore we speak. 14 For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us (together with you) into his presence. 15 In fact, all this is for your benefit, so that as grace increases, it will overflow to the glory of God, as more and more people give thanks.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

Romans 9:20-21

Alleluia. ²⁰ But who are you, a mere human being, to talk back to God? Shall the thing that is formed say to the one who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" No. ²¹ Doesn't the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay one pot for special use and another for ordinary use? Alleluia.

HYMN

CW Red #557 (3): On Galilee's High Mountain

*His strength within my weakness
Will make me bold to say
How his redeeming power
Transforms my stubborn clay.
His touch of fire ignites me;
With courage I am sent,
My tongue-tied silence broken,
With grace made eloquent.*

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “You see; the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them to work and gained five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the servant who had received the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’

²¹ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

²² “The servant who received the two talents came and said, ‘Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.’

²³ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴ “Then the servant who received one talent came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter seed. ²⁵ Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

²⁶ “His master answered him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back with interest. ²⁸ Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. ²⁹ Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ³⁰ Throw that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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 #696: Take My Life and Let It Be

*Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.*

*Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.*

*Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.*

*Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.*

*Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.*

THE SERMON:

2 Corinthians 4:6-15

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING

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THE 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: Through Jesus you “remember our sins no more”, 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.

THE HYMN:

CW Red #182 (1): Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

*Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
In the holiest realms of light,
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
O'er a world of gloom and night,
Holy Spirit, ever raising
Those on earth to thrones on high,
Living, life-imparting Spirit,
You we praise and magnify.*

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:

CW Red #182 (2): Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

*Holy Spirit, ever living
as the Church's very life,
Holy Spirit, ever striving
Through us in a ceaseless strife,
Holy Spirit, ever forming
in the Church the mind of Christ,
You we praise with endless worship
for your gracious gifts unpriced.*

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 COMMUNION BLESSING

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 HYMN:

CW Red #182 (3): Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

*Holy Spirit, ever working,
through the Church's ministry,
Teaching, strength'ning, and absolving,
setting captive sinners free,
Holy Spirit, ever binding
age to age and soul to soul
In communion never ending,
you we worship and extol.*

