



Blessed
are you,
for GREAT
is your reward in heaven.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving the Portland Area
With the Means of Grace
As a family of believers
For almost 110 years...

As a Church
As a School
As a Preschool
As a Mission
As a Ministry
As a Family of Ministries



A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care

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Pastor Thad Bitter
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September 17th, 2021 Memorial Service
Warren L. Widmann

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.” II Peter 3:1**

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

HYMN

CW #451: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

*Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.*

*When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.*

RESURRECTION COMFORT

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C: **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: **Then we also will appear with him in glory.**

M: We will be before the throne of God

C: **And serve him day and night in his temple.**

M: Never again will we hunger;

C: **Never again will we thirst**

M: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd. He will lead us to springs of living water,

C: **And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.**

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn for Warren, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought him to faith. In your rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

THE 23RD PSALM

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SONG

Blessed Are We Who Mourn
Music / Lyrics by Peter Dorn

THE LIFETIME OF WARREN WIDMANN

THE LESSON

1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹² I give thanks to the one who empowered me, namely, Christ Jesus our Lord, that he treated me as trustworthy, appointing me into his ministry. ¹³ He did this even though formerly I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. But I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord overflowed on me along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This saying is trustworthy and worthy of full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But I was shown mercy for this reason: that in me, the worst sinner, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his unlimited patience as an example for those who are going to believe in him, resulting in eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, to the immortal, invisible, only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN:

CW #385 (1-3): “Chief of Sinner Though I Be”

*Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his and he is mine!*

*Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity,
Love that found me --wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought him not.*

*Only Jesus can impart
Comfort to a wounded heart:
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.*

THE LESSON

2 Corinthians 12:1, 7-10

I must go on boasting, although there is nothing to be gained. ⁷Therefore, to keep me from becoming arrogant due to the extraordinary nature of these revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. ⁹And he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me. ¹⁰That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then am I strong.

HYMN:

CW #385 (4-5): “Chief of Sinner Though I Be”

*Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me.
All my wants to him are known;
All my sorrows are his own.
Safe with him in earthly strife,
I await the heav'nly life.*

*Strengthen me, O gracious Lord,
By your Spirit and your word.
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.*

THE DEVOTION

Matthew 5:1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them. He said:³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.

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.

THE PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we praise you for the great company of saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, Warren, whom you have redeemed by the blood of your Son and received as your dear child through holy baptism. We thank you for giving him to us as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. We praise you for your love in Christ, which sustains us in life and death. In our earthly sorrows help us find strength in the fellowship of the church, joy in the forgiveness of sins, and hope in the resurrection to eternal life.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF COMMITTAL

M: It has pleased the almighty God, in his wisdom, to take out of this world the soul of our departed *brother*. We will commit his *remains to its resting place*—earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust—in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

M: May God the Father, who created this body; May God the Son, † who by his blood redeemed this body together with the soul; May God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified this body to be his temple; keep these remains to the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

C: **Amen.**

M: Lord, remember us in your kingdom as we pray:

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 BLESSING

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.**

HYMN:

CW #588 “Abide with Me”

Traditionally, the pastors present, at a brother’s funeral, gather as a choir to sing a hymn during the service. Today, the pastors present, as you are able, are invited to gather in the front of the sanctuary and sing alternate verses, as printed, with the congregation, joining together for the final stanza. “Abide With Me” holds significance as it was the closing hymn sung at Lutheran Bible Camp each year while Pastor Widmann was director.

Congregation:

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.

The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.

When other helpers fail and comforts flee,

Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

Pastors:

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me!

Congregation:

*Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in thy wings,
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea;
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.*

Pastors:

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me oft as I left thee.
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

Congregation:

*I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!*

Pastors:

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

All:

*Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!*