



*In the presence of greatness:
A study in Isaiah*

Our church exists to help people **know** God's Son, **fellowship** with God's people, **worship** in God's church, **grow** in God's grace and **serve** in God's world.

The Lord's Day | October 8, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Please silence your electronic device before the worship service begins.

Preparation for Worship

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Psalm 98:1-3

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! Psalm 98:4-6

Invocation

Doxology

Doxology means "glory words." We lift our hearts up to give God his glory for all he has done.

+Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It

Stories of Rescue

Pastoral Prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

+In Christ Alone

+There Is A Redeemer

Children's Moment

Children dismissed for Children's Church

+Scripture Reading:

"But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! ²Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. ³For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. ⁴They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. ⁵This one will say, 'I am the LORD's,' another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,' and name himself by the name of Israel."

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

⁹All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame. ¹⁰Who fashions a god or casts an idol that is profitable for nothing? ¹¹Behold, all his companions shall be put to shame, and the craftsmen are only human. Let them all assemble, let them stand forth. They shall be terrified; they shall be put to shame together.

¹²The ironsmith takes a cutting tool and works it over the coals. He fashions it with hammers and works it with his strong arm. He becomes hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water and is faint. ¹³The carpenter stretches a line; he marks it out with a pencil. He shapes it with planes and marks it with a compass. He shapes it into the figure of a man, with the beauty of a man, to dwell in a house. ¹⁴He cuts down cedars, or he chooses a cypress tree or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it. ¹⁵Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it. ¹⁶Half of it he burns in the fire. Over the half he eats meat; he roasts it and is satisfied. Also he warms himself and says, "Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire!" ¹⁷And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"

¹⁸They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand. ¹⁹No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, "Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals; I roasted meat and have eaten. And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?" ²⁰He feeds on ashes; a deluded heart has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself or say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"

²¹Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. ²² I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. ²³Sing, O heavens,

for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.

²⁴ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, ²⁵ who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish, ²⁶ who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'She shall be inhabited,' and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins'; ²⁷ who says to the deep, 'Be dry; I will dry up your rivers'; ²⁸ who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

Isaiah 44

Sermon Rev. Doug Serven

Silent Confession

Corporate Confession

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned Him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before Him or acknowledged His rule in our lives. In our blindness we have let the stories of the world shape our life and failed to give our Risen Savior glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin. Let the story of resurrection shape our lives that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the Church, His body. In His name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Pastor: Your sins are forgiven. Your dignity is restored. Your shame is taken away—all by the life and sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to say to all those who were invited, "Friends, your spot at the table is set. He has made a place for you."

People: **Thanks be to God!**

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, and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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 catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*universal

Invitation to the Table

The Lord's Supper

This is a sign and symbol for those who believe in Jesus Christ. It's not for good people. It's for you if you believe and embrace that you are worse and more messed up than you ever dare to admit; and yet you are more loved and accepted than you had ever dared to hope - because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus for you. You will be invited to come forward. The dark liquid is wine and the light liquid is grape juice. We have gluten free crackers on the table if you need them instead of the bread. After you are finished, please place your empty cup in one of the baskets at the front. Feel free to stay and pray with the pastor or elders.

Children are welcome to come with their parents. Each child should talk with a pastor or elder about his or her belief in Christ before taking the Lord's Supper for the first time. Please make an appointment to do this at a future date.

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Pastor: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

JOINING THE CHURCH

These new members have completed the required meetings and have been interviewed by the pastor as to their understanding of the gospel of grace and their walk with the Lord. They are coming to join Grace Church, taking their membership vows before you, the church. If you would like to join us as members, please email Doug about this process.

Pastor: Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as we see his day drawing near. Members of Grace Church, these have asked to be joined to you in love and good deeds, and to assemble with you for worship, discipline and shared ministry as you wait for the Lord's return. The leadership of this church commends them to you. Will you have them as your own and commit yourselves to them?

Members: Do they realize they are becoming part of us?

New Members: We do.

Members: Will they take vows to show their intention?

New Members: We will.

Members: Then let us ask them the questions, and hear for ourselves, and we will be joined together:

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

New Members: We do.

Members: Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel?

New Members: We do.

Members: Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

New Members: We do.

Members: Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

New Members: We do.

Members: Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

New Members: We do.

Pastor to the Congregation: Do you as a members of Grace Church acknowledge your need for this brother and sister in Christ, commit yourselves to their growth in holiness by God's grace, receive them in love, and promise—by the grace of the Holy Spirit—to strengthen and encourage them in the faith, and to live out your union with them in the peace of Christ?

Members: We do.

Pastor: We have many friends whom we love and enjoy in the Lord, but you to us are more. Today, we have become family. Until providence should separate us, or the Lord returns, we are joined to one another in the covenant of grace, sharing together in the rights, privileges and responsibilities of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, that redemption may be seen in us together and glory be given to our God. Welcome, brother. Welcome, sister. Our lives and names are joined together.

+His Mercy Is More

Announcements

+Benediction

God sends us out with his blessing. A benediction is not a prayer. We don't bow our heads. We lift them up and even lift up our hands, in a spiritually ready position so that the blessing God is giving us will fully hit our whole selves, and we'll be sent out for mission.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Dismissal

Pastor: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

**If able, please stand*

Prayers During the Lord's Supper:

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads me to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Struggling Against Sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me and run with perseverance the race you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment: Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Announcements

Cake Reception: All are welcome to stay for cake and to welcome new members Julie Serven and BJ Rice.

Women's Discipleship Group: Meets Monday, October 9, 7 PM at the home of Janet Ruehl.

Men's Discipleship Group: The next meeting is Saturday, October 14, 7 AM at the church.

Nursery/Children's Church Rotation

Today: Tyson, Joan, 10.15 Angie, Darlene

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY

Sunday School: 8:50 – 9:45 AM **Adults** in Trailer **Children 4-12** in classroom in the church.

Worship Service: 10 AM

Nursery (infant -3yrs.) in Toddler Room during service (2nd-5th Sunday)

Children's Church (infant-8 yrs., 2nd-5th Sunday)

MONDAY

Women's Discipleship Group: 7 PM, 2nd Monday of the Month, in person and on Zoom.

WEDNESDAY

Conversational English Classes: 9:30 -11:30 AM during the school year.

Zoom Praying Meeting: 7:30-8:30 PM

SATURDAY

Men's Discipleship Group: 7 AM, 1st Saturday of each month at the church.

Thank you for worshipping with us!

If you would like to have your name added to our communication list for announcements and events, please scan the code.



Thank you for your generous giving to help us support the mission and vision of Grace Church. You can make a one-time gift or set up regular giving. Visit grpca.org or scan the code.



Church Leadership

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