



**ASHES**  
God Hears Our Lament  
*A Congregation  
of Sojourners*



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 | March 3, 2024

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Welcome

*Please silence your electronic device before the worship service begins.*

### Preparation for Worship

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

### Call to Worship

I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

Psalm 57:1-3

### Invocation

### Doxology

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

### +Great is Thy Faithfulness

### 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.**

### +When Trials Come

### +Lord, From Sorrows Deep I Call

### Children's Moment

*There is no Nursery/ Children's Church today.*

## **+Scripture Reading**

I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; <sup>2</sup> he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; <sup>3</sup> surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long.

<sup>4</sup> He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; <sup>5</sup> he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; <sup>6</sup> he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago.

<sup>7</sup> He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy; <sup>8</sup> though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; <sup>9</sup> he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked. <sup>10</sup> He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding; <sup>11</sup> he turned aside my steps and tore me to pieces; he has made me desolate; <sup>12</sup> he bent his bow and set me as a target for his arrow.

<sup>13</sup> He drove into my kidneys the arrows of his quiver; <sup>14</sup> I have become the laughingstock of all peoples, the object of their taunts all day long. <sup>15</sup> He has filled me with bitterness; he has sated me with wormwood. <sup>16</sup> He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; <sup>17</sup> my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; <sup>18</sup> so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD."

<sup>19</sup> Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! <sup>20</sup> My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. <sup>21</sup> But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." <sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. <sup>26</sup> It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. <sup>27</sup> It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

<sup>28</sup> Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him; <sup>29</sup> let him put his mouth in the dust— there may yet be hope; <sup>30</sup> let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults.

<sup>31</sup> For the Lord will not cast off forever, <sup>32</sup> but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; <sup>33</sup> for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men.

<sup>34</sup> To crush underfoot all the prisoners of the earth, <sup>35</sup> to deny a man justice in the presence of the Most High, <sup>36</sup> to subvert a man in his lawsuit, the Lord does not approve.

<sup>37</sup> Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? <sup>38</sup> Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come? <sup>39</sup> Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins?

<sup>40</sup> Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD!

<sup>55</sup> "I called on your name, O LORD, from the depths of the pit; <sup>56</sup> you heard my plea, 'Do not close your ear to my cry for help!' <sup>57</sup> You came near when I called on you; you said, 'Do not fear!' <sup>58</sup> "You have taken up my cause, O Lord; you have redeemed my life.

Lamentations 3

**Sermon** Rev. Doug Serven

## **Silent Confession**

### **Corporate Confession**

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

### **Declaration of Pardon**

As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

Psalm 40:11

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.**

***+It is Well with My Soul***

## **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.

May the LORD bless you and keep you; may the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious toward you; may the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

### **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**

**Women's Discipleship Group:** Meets on the second Monday of the month at the home of Janet Ruehl.

**SWES** is in particular need of Hamburger Helper, cereal, tuna fish, macaroni and cheese, and Ramen Noodles.

### **Nursery/Children's Church Rotation**

Today: There is no Nursery/Children's Church Next Week: Tyson, Sharon

## **Weekly Schedule**

### **SUNDAY**

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

**Worship Service:** 10 AM

**Nursery** (infant -3yrs.) in Toddler Room during service (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

**Children's Church** (infant-8 yrs., 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

**Grace's Glorious Girls** (girls in grades 6-12) every other Sunday 5-7 PM.

### **MONDAY**

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

### **WEDNESDAY**

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

**Samson Society Meeting:** 7 PM

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

### **SATURDAY**

**Men's Discipleship Group:** 7 AM, 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://grpca.org) or scan the code.



## **Church Leadership**

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