

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

All **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin.**

Leader Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

All **We come and bow down before our God! We come and sing to our Rock and Redeemer!** *— Heb. 4:14-16*

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY / R. HEBER

1. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art and evermore shall be

3. Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy,
there is none beside Thee;
perfect in power, in love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

All Our Father,
we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our salvation.
We thank you for the humility and holiness in which he lived and died.
We praise you that he freed us from our sin,
that he sits at your right hand and intercedes for his Church at all times,
that he comforts and strengthens us through our struggles,
and that he gives us courage to follow him.
We thank you for the Holy Spirit, who seals this good news in us.
For this, we now join with all creation and shout for joy:
Holy, holy, holy are you, Lord! **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

PROVIDE FOR ME / R. DELMORE

Maker of the heavens
Maker of the earth
I look up to the mountains
Where does my help come from?

It comes from You, it comes from You
It comes from You
My strength and my shield

You will save me in times of trouble
You will hold me in times of doubt
You will provide for me
Lover of my soul

You will provide for me

JUST A CLOSER WALK TO THEE

1. I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I’ll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

2. Thro’ this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord,
none but Thee.

3. When my feeble life is o’er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o’er
to Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

REFRAIN
Just a closer walk with Thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to Thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

PRAYER OF LAMENT & CONFESSION

All **God, to you we cry out, to you we run, for where else would we go? Listen to our laments and receive our confession.**

Leader We feel the weight of our broken world. Injustice, hatred, oppression and war flourish instead of peace. Our city, state, country, and world desperately long for your deliverance.

All **How long, O Lord, how long?**

Leader Why do so many of your children suffer from hunger and illness? Why have you let fires, earthquakes, and floods take away so much? Why do so many cries for help go unanswered?

All **How long, O Lord, how long?**

Leader Our relationships are breaking under the strain of deceit, jealousy, anger, and selfishness. We know the heartbreak of betrayal, loneliness, and isolation all too well. Do not turn your face away from our pain and our need for repair and reconciliation.

All **How long, O Lord, how long?**

Leader We weep at our own sin, for the guilt we carry and for the hurt we inflict on one another. We need your forgiveness and restoration, but our shame keeps us turned away from your love.

All **Lord, have mercy. (silence is kept together)**

Leader We trust in your unfailing love; our hearts rejoice in your salvation.

All **We will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to us. Amen.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

WE ARE NOT OVERCOME / BIFROST ARTS

CHORUS
Because of His great love
We are not overcome
Because of His great love
We are not overcome

1. Flesh will fail, bones will break
Thieves will steal, the earth will shake
Night will fall, light will fade
The Lord will give, and take away

2. Put no trust in the earth
In the ground you stand upon
Flowers fade into dust
The Lord will make a place for us

3. Have no fear, for your life
Turn your cheek, Turn your cheek
Bear the yoke, love in death
The Lord will give life and breath

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Here are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” *—John 3:16-17*

All **Thanks be to God!**

MINISTRY MOMENT - GLOBAL CHURCH MINISTRY

**Let’s turn our attention to Caroline Paules, Chris Park, and Erisa Stilley to learn about our Global Church Ministry and the latest updates from our church planting partners, the Girards, in France.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

Together **And also with you!**

** Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children’s program during the sermon; children return for Communion.*

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**If you’re visiting with us for the first time, please fill out an information card (available at the welcome table) and drop it into the offering box or give it to a church staff member. For more announcements, see the back of the bulletin or visit our website.*

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

**During the offertory, we consider all that we have and all that God may be asking us to give. Please take this time to ask God how you might give of your financial gifts, personal time and even vocational calling. There are different ways to give. You may mail your offering to our office: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our app (iOS and Android) or website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 18:16-33 (ESV)

¹⁶ Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷ The Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” ²⁰ Then the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶ And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷ Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹ Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰ Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹ He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” ³³ And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Leader This is the word of the Lord!

All **Thanks be to God!**

MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre

“Just for One Righteous”
Sermon Series: Genesis

COMMUNION

GUIDELINES: The sacrament of Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist. It is the family meal for those who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. The invitation is from Jesus Christ alone, not from this church or any minister. If you are baptized and can call yourself a Christian, come to the table.

DIRECTIONS: When instructed, please come forward to receive Communion. Receive the bread and juice from the servers. Pre-packaged elements, which are gluten-free are available in the line closest to the stage. Participate as you feel comfortable.

CHILDREN: Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropriate manner, and have talked to a pastor or an elder may participate in communion.

COMMUNION PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

For those searching: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Give me not only understanding, but also an experience of your love and presence. Amen.

For faith and belief: Lord Jesus, I am weak and sinful, but you call me beloved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death and offering forgiveness and renewal. I hear you calling, and so I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Amen.

For those struggling with sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may 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 ask for help, and to follow you faithfully in life. Amen.

SONGS OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

HIGHER THAN THE HEAVENS / MUSIC: B. CHADWICK; WORDS: B. CHADWICK, M. CHOI

1. When there’s no way up, from the depths of the darkest well
When my hope is gone, your mighty hand comes down
You crown me with love, to overcome all the powers of hell
You lift me up, set my feet on solid ground

CHORUS
Your mercy is higher than the heavens
Nothing is greater than your love for us

2. When my throat is dry, from crying out to you in the night
When my faith is tired, you restore my soul to life
You crown me with love, to overcome all the powers of hell
You lift me up, set my feet on solid ground

BRIDGE
As far as the east is from the west, so far have you taken away our sin
As far as the heavens above the earth, so great is your love for us (x2)
Praise the Lord, O my soul, Praise the Lord, O my soul

FINAL CHORUS
Your mercy is higher than the heavens
Nothing is greater than your love for us
Praise the Lord, O my soul, Praise the Lord, O my soul

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING / R. ROBINSON

1. Come Thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I’m fixed upon it,
mount of Thy redeeming love!

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by Thy help I’m come;
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

3. Oh to grace how great a debtor,
daily I’m constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to Thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart, oh take and seal it;
seal it for Thy courts above

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. May God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – be with you until we meet again. — 2 Thess. 2:16-17, NIV

All Thanks be to God! Amen!

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

| | |
|---------------|--|
| ADVENT | We observe a season of Ordinary Time from Pentecost Sunday until the start of Advent. From the Latin “ordus” we look to the Spirit to re-order our lives according to the love of Jesus Christ. As the season of the Spirit, we especially remember the lives and actions of Jesus’ followers. We think about how the first Christians lived their lives, and how we should live ours today. This season of Ordinary Time takes up half the year and it doesn’t offer big exciting festivals such as Christmas or Easter. It is a season in which we learn to recognize the presence of God in the day-to-day. The color of the season is green, symbolizing new life. |
| CHRISTMAS | |
| EPIPHANY | |
| LENT | |
| EASTER | |
| PENTECOST | |
| ORDINARY TIME | |

THE GRACE PASADENA APP

Use the app to listen to sermons, access an audio Bible, view and register for upcoming events (including City Groups), set up giving and more! Use the QR codes below.



For Android Phones



For iOS Phones

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **11/5:** Last day to bring Thanksgiving boxes for Olive Crest to church
- **11/19:** The Session of Grace Pasadena is calling a congregational meeting on 11/19 after the service for the purpose of voting for new church officers and leaders. Members will vote for elders, wise counselors, deacons, and deaconesses. Bios of the candidates will be available starting on 10/22. (Regular attendees of Grace are welcomed to attend the meeting but cannot vote.)
- **11/26:** We’re helping sponsor a toy store at the Door of Hope Christmas Festival. To participate, grab a ticket and instructions at the Mercy Table, and bring gift donations to church. We’ll collect toys until 11/26.

If you are in any kind of need, please email mercy@gracepasadena.org or talk to a deacon or other leader of Grace. You are not alone - we are here to help!

Scan the QR code below for more details, other announcements and contact information!



GRACE PASADENA’S VISION STATEMENT

Grace Pasadena exists to **Experience** & **Extend** the life-giving grace of God

- **As** we grow in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- **In** every sphere of life
- **For** our neighborhoods, city and the world

GRACE PASADENA’S CORE VALUES

God-Centered Worship – We seek to be transformed in worship as we experience the wonder of God and respond appropriately

Gospel-Driven Identity – We seek a personal experience of the gospel that both humbles us, and assures us that we are more deeply valued and loved by God than we can possibly imagine

Outward-Facing Community – We seek the betterment of our city as we extend God’s grace by loving our neighbors as ourselves

Kingdom-Minded Movement – We seek to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by creating community and global partnerships that can reach and serve those in need

GIVING & BUDGET

| | JAN-SEP ‘23* | OCT ‘23* |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------|
| OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS | \$349,036 | \$27,355 |
| BUDGETED GIVING | 381,000 | 44,000 |
| DIFFERENCE | -31,964 | -16,645 |

* as of 10/27/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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“Christian, look up to your Advocate, one to whom God can deny nothing. A word from Christ’s mouth, is more than if all the angels in heaven were pleading for you! If a man had an important suit in the Court—and had a skillful lawyer to plead, it would much encourage him. Christ is at the court appearing for us, ‘For Christ has entered into heaven itself to appear now before God as our Advocate!’ (Heb. 9:24). He has great power in heaven, which should much encourage us to look up to him...”

THOMAS WATSON | A BODY OF PRACTICAL DIVINITY

Four things let us ever keep in mind: God hears prayer, God heeds prayer, God answers prayer and God delivers by prayer.

EM BOUNDS

Christ has entered alone into the holy place, having Himself obtained eternal redemption for us. The solitary Surety on earth, He is the solitary Intercessor above. No other voice pleads with the Father; no other priest or minister, saint or angel, can be of any avail in coming between the sinner and God.

JOHN MACDUFF | CLEFTS ON THE ROCK

If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me.

ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

OCTOBER 29, 2023
ORDINARY TIME