

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader All who weep in fear, sadness, and doubt, hear these words:
All Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.
Leader Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
All Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy.
Leader If you hear the voice of the Lord today, do not linger but come quickly and rejoice.
All He is ready to save! He is able! Nothing is too difficult for the Lord!
— based on Lk. 6:21, Ps. 126, Heb. 3:15, Gen. 18:14

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS / WORDS: Ps. 24, MUSIC: G. WEISEL

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

2. A helper just, He comes to thee; his chariot is humility; his kingly crown is holiness; his scepter, kindness in distress!

3. O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed! O happy hearts and happy homes, to whom this King in triumph comes!

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart! The Word made flesh descends to dwell with joy for you who His mercies tell.
5. So come, my Lord, and enter in, let new and nobler life begin! Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on until Thy glorious victories won!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME / B. FIELDING; B. LIGERTWOOD

1. You were the Word at the beginning One with God the Lord Most High Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ

CHORUS 1
What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

2. You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus You brought heaven down My sin was great, Your love was greater What could separate us now?

CHORUS 2
What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
- BRIDGE
Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again
You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all Names

CHORUS 3
What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

PSALM 23 / MUSIC: R. & B. CHADWICK

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters; he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All Father of Lights, every good and perfect gift comes for you. You free us with your truth and daily offer us grace upon grace. Yet, we are prone to forget your kindness, and we are quick to laugh at your word. In so doing, we have sinned. Forgive our indifference to the brokenness in and around us. Forgive our refusal to relieve the suffering of others. Forgive our envy of those who have more than we have. Forgive our obsession with creating a life of constant comfort. Open our ears to your truth, fill our mouths with the laughter of faith, and incline our hearts to you, so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

OPEN MY LIPS / F. ORTEGA

Open my lips
I will sing your praise forever
Open my lips O Lord
I will sing your praise forever
A broken spirit and a contrite heart

These you will not despise
Open my lips
I will sing your praise forever

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader This is what the Lord says: “Return to me with all your heart.” Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in stead-fast love. Now lift up your heads, look to the cross of Jesus Christ, and know that your debt has been paid in full because of love. Believe and be glad!
All Thanks be to God!
— from Joel 2:12-13

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Almighty God, we long for the fullness of your kingdom, when your holiness will be known throughout the world. Grant us grace for the journey, patience for the fulfillment of all your promises, and faith-filled laughter as we press forward toward that great day. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader King of Kings and Lord of Lords, all authority belongs to you. Bless all earthly authorities in promoting justice everywhere; may our leaders keep their ears open to the cries of the hurting and respond with mercy. Embolden your Church to speak and embody your words of peace where there is hatred and division. For this, O Lord, we pray: Lord, hear our prayer.
All Holy Spirit, your renewing power is stronger than our doubts and even the grip of death. Be a healer to the sick, a friend to the lonely, a comforter to the afflicted, a home to the wanderer, a refuge to the fearful, a provider for the poor. Heal what is broken; surprise the barren with your fullness. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

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 21:1-7 (ESV)

¹ The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” ⁷ And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Leader This is the word of the Lord!
All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre

“The Laughing Woman & The Son of Promise”
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

OH HAPPY DAY / E. HAWKINS

Oh happy day! Oh happy day!
When Jesus washed
Oh when He washed
When He washed
All my sins away

Oh happy day
He taught me how to walk
Right and pray, right and pray!
And live rejoicing every day,
Every day!

DOXOLOGY / T. KEN

Praise God,
from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader

Stand alert and watch for the Lord! He has heard our cries; he is our strength and shield; he will fill our mouths with laughter. May our joy be a blessing to our neighbors, city and world!

All

Thanks be to God! Amen!

—from Ps. 28; Ps. 126

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
ORDINARY TIME

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.

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	\$29,963
BUDGETED GIVING	381,000	44,000
DIFFERENCE	-31,964	-14,037

* as of 11/3/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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“When you’re in the intersection between the promises of God and the details of your situation, what you do with your mind is very important. In this intersection, God will never ask you to deny reality. Abraham did not deny reality. Romans 4 says that he ‘considered the deadness of Sarah’s womb.’ Faith doesn’t deny reality. No, it is a God-focused way of considering reality.”

PAUL DAVID TRIPP | *DAUGHTER OF THE KING*

“The spiritual life is lived between two polarities: our sin and God’s grace. The discovery of the former brings us to seek the latter; the work of the latter illuminates the depths of the former and causes us to seek yet more grace... The heart-conviction of sin is the way grace prepares the heart for more grace.”

SINCLAIR FERGUSON | *THEOLOGIAN OF THE SPIRIT*

“The ultimate test of our spirituality is the measure of our amazement at the grace of God.”

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

NOVEMBER 5, 2023
ORDINARY TIME