

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader This is the day the Lord has made.
All **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
Leader Again today we come together to worship—the God of creation, of salvation, of time and eternity; the God of all peoples, of all nations, of all conditions of people everywhere.
All **Praise the Lord! All that is within me, praise God’s holy name!**
Leader Praise the Lord and remember all his kindnesses: in forgiving our sins; in saving us from death; in surrounding us with love.
All **The Lord is full of mercy and compassion. The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in love! Praise the Lord! Oh, all that is within me, praise the Lord!**
— based on Ps. 118; Ex. 34:6

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

BUILD MY LIFE / M. REDMAN; P. BARRETT

1. Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

2. Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, oh, we live for You

MERCY / RYAN DELMORE

Mercy shines like the sun in the morning
Chasing the dark into blue skies
Giving me hope for the day
A new song of praise
And mercy
It falls like the rain upon me
Taking away all my sorrows
Covering all of my shame
And now I can sing

CHORUS

Holy, there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder
Show me who You are and fill me
With Your heart and lead me
In Your love to those around me

BRIDGE

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

Hallelujah
I’m washed in the blood of the Lamb
Hallelujah, I’m forgiven
Yes, I’m forgiven

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Jesus, Son of God, you did not despise the lowly, but instead sat at the table with outcasts and sinners. We confess that too often our words and actions are inconsistent with your generous love. Too often we ignore the needy, show indifference to the lonely, and reject those who look different from us. Too often we give preference to the successful, the well-dressed, and the well-connected, and we seek their approval for our gain. Forgive us and have mercy on us. Give us eyes to see ourselves and our neighbors as you see us, and replace our impoverished love with your perfect love. **Amen.**

(Silence is kept together.)

SONG OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE BRILLIANCE

You hear us calling
You hear us calling
Abba Father

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Live now as people reconciled. —based on Ro. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17
All **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Rising First Year College Students:

- Avi Maljanian
- Judson Pietre

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 address: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:1-17 (ESV)

¹ My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God!**

MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre

“A Radical Lifestyle of Mercy”
James: The Gospel-Integrated Life

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

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY / MAVIS STAPLES

Every step of the way
I found grace
If I lead or follow change my pace
I get tired lose my way
My lord he knows me every step of the way
My lord he knows me every step of the way

AMAZING GRACE / J. NEWTON

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved!
How precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers,
toils and snares
I have already come!
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
4. When we've been there
ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we've first begun!

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader

God has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. As God has loved you, go and love one another.

All

Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 8/6:** Today! College students are invited to a night of fellowship and s'mores. See Pastor Ben for questions or to RSVP.
- 8/13:** New to Grace? Interested in membership? Pastor Brannin will be leading our "Intro to Grace" class after the service at the church office. Lunch will be provided. Email info@gracepasadena.org with questions or to RSVP.
- 8/15:** Join others to view Tim Keller's memorial service at 11:30am at the church office. The office will be open starting at 11am. (You can also find more information or watch from you own location by visiting: <https://timothykeller.com/service>)
- 8/20:** Calling all current and potential city group leaders and hosts! You're invited to a brief info session about the upcoming year of groups. The meeting will start 15 minutes after the service at the church office. See Ben for more details.

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-JUN '23* | JUL '23* |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____ | \$214,667 | \$30,266 |
| BUDGETED GIVING _____ | 249,000 | 44,000 |
| DIFFERENCE _____ | -34,333 | -13,734 |

* as of 7/28/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors

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.



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"The power of just mercy is that it belongs to the undeserving. It's when mercy is least expected that it's most potent—strong enough to break the cycle of victimization and victimhood, retribution and suffering. It has the power to heal the psychic harm and injuries that lead to aggression and violence, abuse of power, mass incarceration."

BRYAN STEVENSON | *JUST MERCY*

"The clear directive of scripture that all Christians must have their own ministry of mercy. We must each be actively engaged in it ourselves."

TIM KELLER | *MINISTRIES OF MERCY*

"There cannot be a surer rule, nor a stronger exhortation to the observance of it, than when we are taught that all the endowments which we possess are divine deposits entrusted to us for the very purpose of being distributed for the good of our neighbor."

JOHN CALVIN | *INSTITUTES*

AUGUST 6, 2023
ORDINARY TIME