

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader People of God, come and worship the living God, the God who speaks words of life! Remember that God spoke and created the heavens and earth. Remember that God spoke and promised to be our God always. Remember that God spoke and overcame sin and death through his Son, the living Word. Remember that God spoke and sent his Spirit to live in us.

All We hear the voice of God and we come to worship.
Leader Come with open ears!
All God’s word is a lamp for our feet and a light on our path. We set our hearts on hearing God’s word and keeping it to the end!

– based on Psalm 119:105

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY / J. NEANDER; B. CHADWICK

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near, praise Him in glad adoration.	3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee! Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with His love He befriend thee.
2. Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth; shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been granted in what He ordaineth?	4. Praise to the Lord! O, let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him. Let the “Amen” sound from His people again, gladly for aye we adore Him.

REFRAIN
Praise to the Lord, O my soul
All ye who hear, praise Him

PRAYER OF PRAISE & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

AT THE CROSS / I. WATTS; B. CHADWICK

1. Alas and did my Savior bleed? And did my Sovereign die? Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?	3. Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut His glories in. When Christ the mighty maker died for man the creature’s sin.
2. Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity; Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!	4. But drops of grief can ne’er repay the debt of love I owe: Here Lord, I give myself away, ‘tis all that I can do.

Hallelujah, I’m forgiven.

EVIDENCE / J. BALDWIN

1. All throughout my history Your faithfulness has walked beside me The winter storms made way for spring In every season, from where I’m standing	BRIDGE See the cross, the empty grave The evidence is endless All my sin rolled away Because of You, oh Jesus
CHORUS I see the evidence of Your goodness All over my life, all over my life I see Your promises in fulfillment All over my life, all over my life	ENDING Why should I fear, the evidence is here
2. Help me remember when I’m weak Fear may come but fear will leave You lead my heart to victory You are my strength and You always will be	

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Eternal God, we confess that often we have failed to be an obedient church: we have not listened to your words; we have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience and teach us to love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Silence is kept together.)

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader “Remember 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. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.” Because of Jesus Christ, we can be sure that the God who created us is the one who redeems us and names us beloved. Receive these words and be at peace.

All Thanks be to God!

– based on Isaiah 44:21-22

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Covenant: your goodness and faithfulness are inexhaustible, and you are the Lord of heaven and earth. Remind us of your promises and who you have created us to be; show us how to love as your Son loved us. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader We ask that you would bring down every evil ruler and all who use their power to oppress and terrorize. Raise up leaders who serve their people with wisdom, justice, and compassion. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Listen, O God, to the cries of those who are in distress. Lift up the downtrodden, free those in bondage, heal the sick, draw near to the lonely, give peace to the anxious, comfort those who grieve, all for your name’s sake. We pray for the people of Morocco and Libya. Do not turn your face away; have mercy! 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 2:15-17

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

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

MORNING MESSAGE Brannin Pitre

“Covenant Obedience”
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

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

AARON’S BLESSING / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord make His face to shine on you
May the Lord make His face to shine on you

And be gracious to you
And be gracious to you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May He keep you in perfect peace
May He keep you in perfect peace

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us, and the love of God, which enables us to love all, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body, make eager to obey the will of God until we meet again, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Go in peace to love and serve the world. —based on 2 Cor. 13:13

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

- **9/22:** Youth Group Field Day at Victory Park from 7-10pm. See Pastor Ben.
- **9/24:** Adult Discipleship Seminars! This fall, we’ll explore the different genres of Scripture and how knowing the genres can deepen our understanding of God’s words to us and its beauty. Seminars meet on 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22. We’ll meet at 8:45am in the Cliff Benedict Room. See Pastor Marc.
- **10/8:** Park Ministry needs help preparing lunches and distributing lunches for this Sunday and many Sundays through December. If interested, contact our Park Ministry Team at mercy@gracepasadena.org.

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-AUG ‘23*	SEP ‘23*
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$304,199	\$22,934
BUDGETED GIVING _____	337,000	44,000
DIFFERENCE _____	-32,801	-21,066

* as of 9/14/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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“Hence, the first step in true knowledge is taken, when we reverently embrace the testimony which God has been pleased therein to give of himself. For not only does faith, full and perfect faith, but all correct knowledge of God, originate in obedience. And surely in this respect God has with singular Providence provided for mankind in all ages.”

JOHN CALVIN | *THE INSTITUTES*

“To listen closely, with every fibre of our being, at every moment of the day is one of the most difficult things in the world, and yet it is essential if we mean to find the God whom we are seeking... And now it is our obedience which proves that we have been paying close attention. That word ‘obedience’ is derived from the Latin oboedire, which shares its roots with audire, to hear. So to obey really means to hear and then act upon what we have heard, or, in other words, to see that the listening achieves its aim.”

ESTHER DE WAAL | *SEEKING GOD*

“We were not just created and then given a covenant; we were created as covenant creatures—partners not in deity, to be sure, but in the drama that was about to unfold in history.”

MICHAEL HORTON | *INTRO TO COVENANT THEOLOGY*

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
ORDINARY TIME