

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.
All **We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!**
Leader Let us worship God as Christ’s ambassadors.
All **Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.**
Leader Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
All **Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed, renewed!**

—based on Jn. 4:24; 2 Cor. 5:17-21

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD / M. LUTHER

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not His equal.	3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God’s own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same; and He must win the battle.	4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; the Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill; God’s truth abideth still, his kingdom is forever!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

All **God, our Father, we praise you for your love.
In love, you sent Jesus Christ, your Son,
to heal the sick, to mend the brokenhearted,
to comfort the disturbed, to disturb the comfortable,
to cleanse the temple, to confront the powers of injustice,
to carry the cross, to bear the sin of the world and take it away,
to send the Holy Spirit to renew us and the world with his life.
We lift our praise to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

JESUS’ NAME / R. DELMORE

So beautiful, no name is higher So wonderful, is Jesus’ name Is Jesus’ name	Holy is Your name, Holy is Your name
<i>And every knee will bow In heaven and the earth And every eye will see The measure of Your worth There is no one like You Risen Son of God</i>	

JESUS PAID IT ALL / E. HALL

1. I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small; Child of weakness watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all.”	3. Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone, Can change the leper’s spots And melt the heart of stone
2. Jesus paid it all All to Him I owe Sin had left a crimson stain He washed me white as snow	

4. For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim
I’ll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb

5. And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save”
My lips shall still repeat

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All **God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
we are your covenant people—one church, drawn from all nations.
Our citizenship is in heaven. Yet we confess, O Lord,
that we sometimes lose sight of your kingdom and its ways.
We confess that we sometimes live more as citizens of our own land
than as citizens of your kingdom.
We confess we often collude with the evil powers of this world,
believing they can provide what only you can.
By your truth you call all peoples to account.
Forgive us for losing our distinctiveness.
Focus us on the cross and on the salvation you give through him
who is the Lord and King and Judge of us all,
Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Silence is kept together

SONG OF ASSURANCE

TRISAGION (HOLY GOD, HOLY AND MIGHTY) / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

Holy God, Holy and Mighty
Holy immortal one
Have mercy, have mercy on us

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE

Leader For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not
from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one
can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do
good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

— Eph. 2:8-1-(NIV)

All **Thanks be to God!**

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 LESSON

Luke 22:66-23:24 (ESV)

^{22:66} When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷ “If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” ⁷⁰ So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” ⁷¹ Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

^{23:1} Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” ³ And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” ⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” ⁵ But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹ So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹² And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish and release him.” ¹⁸ But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— ¹⁹ a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰ Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹ but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!”²² A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” ²³ But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Marc Choi

*Sermon Series: Walking with Jesus to the Cross and Resurrection
Sermon Title: Even in Darkness, Grace.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader	O Jesus, who wept over the death of Lazarus,
All	be with all who grieve.
Leader	O Jesus, who wept over the state of Jerusalem,
All	be with our city and your church.
Leader	O Jesus, who prayed and wept alone in Gethsemane,
All	be with all who feel alone, all who face difficult decisions.
Leader	O Jesus, who cried, “My God, why have you forsaken me?”
All	be with all who are tortured, all who are victims of injustice.
Leader	O Jesus, who offered up prayers with loud cries and tears,
All	hear our prayers. . . .
	<i>(continue offering prayers in silence or out loudly)</i>
All	O Jesus, who wept in sympathy and frustration, O living God, who knows all our pain and joy, be with us in our lives. Amen.

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. 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

THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD / F. ORTEGA; B. CHADWICK

This man was the Son of God
Surely He was Messiah
This man was the Son of God
Surely He was Messiah

IN MY FATHER’S KINGDOM / F. ORTEGA; B. CHADWICK

This bread is my body
Broken for you
This cup is my blood of the covenant
Poured out for you
I will not drink of the fruit of this vine
Until I drink it anew with you
In my Father’s kingdom
In my Father’s kingdom

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 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. —1 Thess. 5:23, NIV

All Thanks be to God! Amen!

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
ORDINARY TIME

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the heart of the Christian gospel, and Good Friday and Easter are two of the most significant celebrations of the Christian year. Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter. Just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus’ passion and celebrating Jesus’ resurrection. The season is 40 days long and its theme is repentance. Purple is the traditional color used during the season.

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Lenten Service:** We’re assembling hygiene care packages for our unhoused neighbors on 3/17. Email mercy@gracepasadena.org if you’d like to contribute supplies like soap, sanitizer, socks, etc...
- Holy Week:** Palm Sunday @ 10am | Good Friday @ 6pm | Easter Sunday @ 10am
- Easter Sunday:** Do you have experience arranging flowers or decorating? Or enjoy putting together charcuterie, cheese, and veggie boards? Or have good lifting form and are happy to move tables, chairs, or other equipment? Or like helping throw a party? Then, we’d love your help for our Easter Sunday Celebration! Email info@gracepasadena.org to volunteer.
- Youth Retreat:** Calling rising 9th graders and current high school students! Mark your calenders for 7/26-7/30 and sign up for the summer youth conference in Malibu. Cost is \$50. Use our app to sign up. Adults, if you’d like to sponsor a student, see Pastor Ben.

*Looking for a way to love our neighbors? Consider joining the Park Ministry after the service.

*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

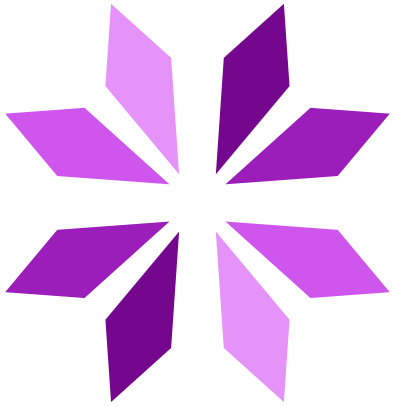
	JAN-DEC ‘23*	JAN ‘24*	FEB ‘24*
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$555,909	\$32,320	\$25,230
BUDGETED GIVING _____	557,000	--	--
DIFFERENCE _____	-1,091	--	--

* as of 3/2/2024; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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“Gross injustice demonstrates a basic premise: in our world, something is terribly wrong and cries out to be put right.”

FLEMING RUTLEDGE | THE CRUCIFIXION

A gracious Sabbath stood here while they stood
Who gave our rest a haven.
Now fallen, they are given
To labor and distress.
These times we know much evil, little good
To steady us in faith
And comfort when our losses press
Hard on us, and we choose,
In panic or despair or both,
To keep what we will lose.

For we are fallen like the trees, our peace
Broken, and so we must
Love where we cannot trust,
Trust where we cannot know,
And must await the wayward-coming grace
That joins living and dead,
Taking us where we would not go–
Into the boundless dark.
When what was made has been unmade
The Maker comes to His work.

WENDELL BERRY | “SABBATHS II”

“Jesus came to announce to us that an identity based on success, popularity and power is a false identity- an illusion! Loudly and clearly he says: ‘You are not what the world makes you; but you are children of God.’”

HENRI J.M. NOUWEN | HERE AND NOW

THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 10, 2024