

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Lord Jesus, we walk with you through the valley of the shadow of death.

All **Let us find our life in you, O Lord.**

Leader Banished from the Garden of Eden for our rebellion, we long for the garden of Paradise.

All **O Lord, you are the Christ. Remember us in your kingdom.**

Leader We come to hear you speak of your love for us. You have the words of eternal life.

All **Give us ears to hear, and our tears will turn to dancing and our lips will open in loud songs of praise! Hallelujah!**

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!	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.
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	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

Leader Let us join our voices to praise the spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and death.

All **We, whom he has redeemed, will sing praises and shout for joy because in Christ the Lamb we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins in accordance with the riches of his grace!**

Leader Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

All **Let us praise him by saying: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and praise!**

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	BRIDGE <i>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</i>
CHORUS 1 <i>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</i>	CHORUS 3 <i>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</i>
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 <i>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</i>	

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, you came to serve.
As you came to a blind man and gave him sight, come to us in our darkness and show us the things we cannot see.
As you came to a man tormented in his mind and gave him peace and healing, come to us in our tensions and make us whole.
As you came to Lazarus, who was dead, and brought him from the grave, come to us in our deadness and bring us to real life now with our living Lord.
Lord Jesus Christ, you came not to be served but to serve.
But we see life the other way round: to get where we do not give, to exploit whom we have not helped, to use what we have not earned.
As you came to a dying thief and promised him paradise, come to us now in forgiveness and give us hope. Amen.
Silence is kept together

SONG OF ASSURANCE

WE LABOR UNTO GLORY / THE PORTER’S GATE

1. My God, my God, where e’er I go — glory.
Where I reap and where I sow — glory.
When my hand it grips the thorn — glory
In the still and in the storm — glory.

REFRAIN:
*Oh, we labor unto glory
When heaven and earth are one,
Oh, we labor unto glory
Until God’s kingdom comes.*

2. The sun it shines and then goes down — glory.
Rain, it pours and beats the ground — glory.
Dust, it blows and ends my days — glory.
Hearts they burn beneath Your gaze — glory.

3. My heart, my hands, they’re kingdom bound — glory.
Where thorns no longer curse the ground — glory.
Trim the wick and light the flame — glory.
My work, it will not be in vain — glory.

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.

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 23:26-43 (ESV)

²⁶ And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸ But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’³¹ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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	We pray to you, O Lord, our God and Father, because we are encouraged by Jesus Christ, your Son and our brother, to do so. You have said through the mouth of the prophet: “Seek the good of the city and pray for it to the Lord”; so we pray to you today for our cities and villages and for the whole land, for justice and righteousness, for peace and good order everywhere.
All	Have mercy, Lord, we pray.
Leader	Jesus Christ, King of kings, we pray for those who govern. Teach them that you are the ruler of all and that they are only your instruments. Grant them wisdom for their difficult decisions, a sharp eye for what is needed for the common good, and courage to obey you.
All	Have mercy, Lord, we pray.
Leader	Holy Spirit, our Comforter, we pray for all who are no longer able to sleep in peace because they fear for their own life and for the lives of others; we pray for all who weep because anxiety and despair. Grant that them faithful friends and counselors to comfort them and to strengthen them with your gospel. Bring your healing.
All	Have mercy, Lord, we pray. 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.

SONGS OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

PSALM 126 / BIFROST ARTS

Our mouths they were filled,
filled with laughter
Our tongues they were loosed,
loosed with joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord

The nations will say,
“He has done great things!”
The nations will sing songs of joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord

Although we are weeping
Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry
Lord, please do not tarry
All those who sow weeping
Will go out with songs of joy

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader

May God the Father bless you,
God the Son heal you,
God the Holy Spirit give you strength.
May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body,
save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another.

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:** Join the Park Ministry *after the service today* to assemble hygiene care packages for our unhoused neighbors. More hands the merrier!
- 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 calendars for 7/26-7/30 and sign up for the summer youth conference in Malibu. Total cost is \$550, but students pay only \$50; the rest will be covered by the Youth Fund and silent auction fund-raiser. Use our app to sign up. If you’d like to sponsor a student or contribute to the silent auction, see Pastor Ben.
- Chili Cookoff!** Stay tuned for more details about our annual chili cook-off in April. Reach out to Pastor Marc to help or to cook a pot of your best chili.

**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

	<u>JAN-DEC ‘23*</u>	<u>JAN-FEB ‘24*</u>	<u>MAR ‘24*</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$555,909	\$64,027	\$13,571
BUDGETED GIVING _____	557,000	81,900	40,950
DIFFERENCE _____	-1,091	-17,873	-27,379

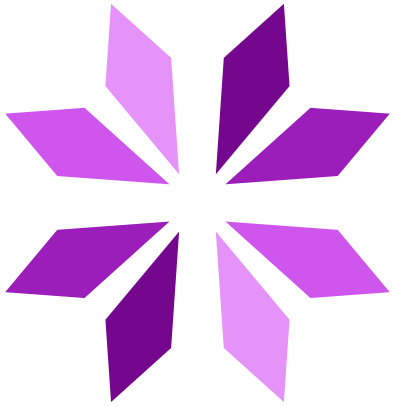
** as of 3/14/2024*



(626) 653-6036 (voicemail or text) | info@gracepasadena.org | www.gracepasadena.org

Mailing/Office Address:
16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609
Pasadena, CA 91101

Music lyrics printed by permission: CCLI #2816052
Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version
© 2001 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers
Used by permission. All rights reserved.



“Lament is honesty before God and each other. If something has truly been declared dead, there is no use in sugarcoating that reality. To hide from suffering and death would be an act of denial. If an individual would deny the reality of death during a funeral, friends would justifiably express concern over the mental health of that individual. In the same way, should we not be concerned over a church that lives in denial over the reality of death in our midst?”

SOONG-CHAN RAH | *PROPHETIC LAMENT*

“There is grief that is useful, and there is grief that is destructive. The first sort consists in weeping over one’s own faults and weeping over the weakness of one’s neighbors, in order not to destroy one’s purpose, [but] to attach oneself to the perfect good. But there is also a grief that comes from the enemy, full of mockery, which some even call *accidie* [despondency]. This spirit must be cast out, mainly by prayer and by psalmody.”

AMMA ST. SYNCLETICA OF THE EGYPTIAN DESERT

“Seeing a person or piece of creation trampled should always disrupt something in us. It should always do something to the soul. And when you trace that trampling back across generations and systems and powers, a quiet sorrow is born in you.”

COLE ARTHUR RILEY | *THIS HERE FLESH*

THE 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 17, 2024