



**COVENANT GRACE**  
C O L U M B I A

**September 8th 2024**

## **Liturgy**

### **Call to Worship**

**God gathers his people to care for them and receive their worship.**

Isaiah 55

"Come, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and he who has no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;

hear, that your soul may live;

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>6</sup> "Seek the LORD while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way,

and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have  
compassion on him,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup> "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven

and do not return there but water the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> "For you shall go out in joy

and be led forth in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you

shall break forth into singing,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;

instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall make a name for the LORD,

an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

## **Mighty Fortress**

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

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

A mighty fortress is our God  
His kingdom is forever  
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A mighty fortress is our God  
His kingdom is forever  
His kingdom is forever

If 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  
The Lord Of Hosts His name  
From age to age the same  
And He must win the battle

## **The Law of God**

### **God requires righteousness of all people.**

Romans 12:9–21 - <sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## **Confession of Sin**

### **God's people acknowledge their sin before Him.**

**Merciful Father, we know the evil, suffering, and death wrought by sin. We see it in the world around us and in our very heart. We see it destroy and enslave those who bear your image. Yet still we chose it. We believe its lies while distrusting your Word. We find ourselves doing the wrong we hate, and unable to do the good we desire. We look elsewhere for that which is found in You alone. Deliver us from the guilt and the sway of our sin for Christ's sake, who purchased our righteousness and freedom with his precious blood. Amen**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

### **God shows his people mercy and grace in Jesus Christ**

Ezekiel 36:25–28 - <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. <sup>28</sup> You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

### **From The Depths Of Woe**

From depths of woe I raise to Thee	What though I wait the livelong night
The voice of lamentation	And till the dawn appeareth
Lord turn a gracious ear to me	My heart still trusteth in His might
And hear my supplication	It doubteth not nor feareth
If Thou iniquities dost mark	Do thus O ye of Israel's seed
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark	Ye of the Spirit born indeed
O who shall stand before Thee	And wait till God appeareth

To wash away the crimson stain	Though great our sins and sore our woes
Grace grace alone availeth	His grace much more aboundeth
Our works alas are all in vain	His helping love no limit knows
In much the best life faileth	Our utmost need it soundeth
No man can glory in Thy sight	Our shepherd good and true is He
All must alike confess Thy might	Who will at last His Israel free
And live alone by mercy	From all their sin and sorrow

Therefore my trust is in the Lord  
And not in mine own merit  
On Him my soul shall rest His word  
Upholds my fainting spirit  
His promised mercy is my fort  
My comfort and my sweet support  
I wait for it with patience

### **In Tenderness**

In tenderness He sought me	He died for me while I was sinning
Weary and sick with sin	Needy and poor and blind
And on His shoulders brought me	He whispered to assure me
Back to His fold again	"I've found thee; thou art Mine"
While angels in His presence sang	I never heard a sweeter voice
Until the courts of heaven rang	It made my aching heart rejoice

<i>Ooh, the love that sought me!</i>	Upon His grace I'll ponder
<i>Ooh, the blood that bought me!</i>	And sing anew His praise
<i>Oh, the grace that brought me</i>	With all adoring wonder
<i>to the fold of God</i>	His blessings I retrace
<i>Grace that brought me</i>	It seems as if eternal days
<i>to the fold of God</i>	Are far too short to sing His praise

## **Prayer**

**After the Pastor leads us in prayer for our church and community, pray together as Jesus taught us:**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## **Sermon - Matthew 14:1-12 God proclaims His word to His people.**

### **THE APOSTLES CREED**

**God's people confess the faith once for all delivered to the saints.**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ,  
His only begotten Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he shall come again to judge the living and the  
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

AMEN.

"catholic" means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples

## **Amazing Grace**

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

*My chains are gone,  
I've been set free;  
My God, my Savior  
has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy rains,  
unending love, amazing grace*

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

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'd first begun

Through many dangers,  
toils, and snares  
I have already come  
His grace hath brought me  
safe thus far  
and grace will lead me home

## **The Lord's Supper**

**God gives his people the sign of their New Covenant union with Christ.**

## **Doxology**

**God's people praise Him in light of all they have received.**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

## **Benediction**

**God sends His people out with His blessing.**

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.