



COVENANT GRACE
C O L U M B I A

August 4th 2024

Liturgy

Call to Worship

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

146 Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

3 Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

4 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.

5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

6 who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;

7 who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

9 The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10 The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the LORD!

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has
blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
The Son and spirit blessed
Who reign in highest Heaven; The
one eternal God,
whom Heaven and Earth adore;
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
Of this world in the next!

The Law of God

God requires righteousness of all people.

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

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.¹⁹ 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."²⁰ 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."²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Confession of Sin

God's people acknowledge their sin before Him.

Lord Jesus, we have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in our daily lives. Our sins and shortcomings present us with a list of accusations, but we thank you that they will not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver us from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, everything that prevents us taking delight in you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God shows his people mercy and grace in Jesus Christ

Matthew 11:28–30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood
Died He for me,
who caused Him pain,
For me, who Him to death
pursued?
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou, My God shouldst die
for me?

*Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, My God
shouldst die for me?*

He left His Father's throne above
(So free, so infinite His grace!)
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's
helpless race
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin
and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused
a quick'ning ray.
I woke, the dungeon
flamed with light:
My chains fell off,
my heart was free
I rose, went forth,
and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my Living Head,
And clothed in
righteousness divine.
Bold I approach the
eternal throne
And claim the crown, through
Christ my own.

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine	Perfect submission, all is at rest
O what a foretaste of glory divine	I, in my Savior, am happy
Heir of salvation, purchase of God	and blessed
Born of His Spirit,	Watching and waiting,
washed in His blood	looking above
	Filled with His goodness,
<i>This is my story, this is my song</i>	lost in His love
<i>Praising my Savior</i>	
<i>all the day long</i>	Oh what a Savior!
<i>This is my story, this is my song</i>	Wonderful Jesus!
<i>Praising my Savior</i>	
<i>all the day long</i>	Death could not hold You -
	You are victorious!
	Praise to the risen King!

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 13:31-35
God proclaims His word to His people.

THE NICENE CREED

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

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

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

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices; Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today	All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given; The Son and spirit blessed Who reign in highest Heaven; The one eternal God, whom Heaven and Earth adore; For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.
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O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
Of this world in the next!

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give
you peace.