

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Come, bow down and worship, kneel to the Lord, our maker.  
**All This is our God, our shepherd, we are the flock led with care.**  
Leader We have gathered to praise our gracious God.  
**All Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!** —based on Psalm 96:6-7

## OPENING PRAYER

## SONGS OF PRAISE

### *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.

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.

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.

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!

### *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

#### **CHORUS 1**

*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*

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**

*What a wonderful Name it is*

### *BE THOU MY VISION / TRANS. MARY E. BYRNE*

1. Be Thou my Vision,  
O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me,  
save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought,  
by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping,  
Thy presence my Light.

2. Be Thou my Wisdom,  
and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee,  
and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true Son;  
Thou in me dwelling,  
and I with Thee one.

3. Riches I heed not,  
nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;  
High King of Heaven,  
my treasure Thou art.

4. High King of Heaven,  
my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys,  
O bright Heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart,  
whatever befall, still be my Vision,  
O Ruler of all.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader Christian, what is your confession of sin?  
**All Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name, Amen.** (silence)

## WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Christians, lift up your heads!  
Know that the LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

**All Thanks be to God!**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All And also with you!**

Leader Therefore, let us greet one another.

*Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children's program during the sermon; children return for Communion.*

## SONG OF FAITH

### *LET THE PEACE OF THE CHRIST (COL. 3:15-17) / R. DELMORE*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; to His peace you were called in one body

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; to His peace you were called in one body

So be thankful, yes, be thankful  
Singing songs and hymns and spiritual songs, filled with thankfulness to God  
Singing songs and hymns and spiritual songs, filled with thankfulness to God

**Everything you do in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord  
Everything you do in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord**

Let the word of Christ richly dwell in you, as you counsel and teach one another

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

Leader Christians, what do you believe?

**All In tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, and sword, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For we are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** —from Romans 8:35-39

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide so that, united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table, and serve you in one common ministry. (silence)  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

Leader Guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition and to bow to your sovereign rule. Inspire them to strive for peace and justice, that all your children may dwell secure, free of war and injustice. (silence)  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

Leader Sustain those among us who need your healing touch. Make the sick whole, give hope to the dying, comfort those who mourn, and uphold all who suffer in body or mind, not only those we know and love but also those known only to you, that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care (silence)  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

Leader O God, in your loving purpose answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes. In all things for which we pray, give us the will to seek to bring them about, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Acts 15:1-21 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." <sup>2</sup> This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. <sup>3</sup> The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. <sup>4</sup> When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. <sup>5</sup> Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses." <sup>6</sup> The apostles and elders met to consider this question. <sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." <sup>12</sup> The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. <sup>13</sup> When they finished, James spoke up. "Brothers," he said, "listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: <sup>16</sup> "After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, <sup>17</sup> that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things"—<sup>18</sup> things known from long ago. <sup>19</sup> "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

## MORNING MESSAGE

**John Stone**

**Sermon Title: "The Battle For The Gospel"**

## RESPONSE OF FAITH & 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](http://www.gracepasadena.org/give).

## 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 ACCLAMATION

Leader Therefore we declare the great mystery of our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament

All **Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

Leader These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

## SONG OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

**SAVIOR LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US / DOROTHY THRUPP**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care; In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.	Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be; Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse and power to free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to Thee. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to Thee.
We are Thine, Thou dost befriend us, Be the guardian of our way; Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.	Early let us seek Thy favor, Early let us do Thy will; Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

## THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit, soul, and body—and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The one who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it! Alleluia!

All **Alleluia! 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	
<b>ORDINARY TIME</b>	

## ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **City Group Leadership Training | Today!** - If you've ever been curious about how to lead a group, please attend. We will discuss groups for the upcoming term and review the new content for the fall.
- **Children & Families Ministry Training | August 25** - Interested in serving in children's church this year? Join us for our children's ministry volunteer training on Aug 25 at 8:30 am to learn more. Email Caroline at [families@gracepasadena.org](mailto:families@gracepasadena.org) for more details.
- **College / Young Adult Welcome Back BBQ | September 8** - Join the Ewens at their home for a night of food and fellowship as we welcome back our college students. RSVP via this link: <https://subspla.sh/g4dwjzc>
- **City Groups Fall Term** - CGs will return for 10 weeks from the summer hiatus September 15 through November 23. If you haven't yet joined a group, email [ben@gracepasadena.org](mailto:ben@gracepasadena.org) for more info.
- **New Members Class | October 6** - Join us for a five (5) week course on membership at Grace Pasadena. The class will start October 6 and end November 3. Please sign up by emailing [ben@gracepasadena.org](mailto:ben@gracepasadena.org).
- **Youth Group Hangouts!** Every Thursday evening the youth group hangs out doing different activities such as movie and board game nights, meals together, and the occasional pool, beach or mountain adventure. If you want to know what we're up to or want to participate, visit our website under "Youth" (updated weekly) or email Bailey at [bailey@gracepasadena.org](mailto:bailey@gracepasadena.org)!
- **Dinner at the Stones** - John and Marisa would love to have you over for dinner! Sign up for an available date via this link: <https://subspla.sh/rbz2w39/> or scan the QR code below.



Dinner at the Stones

## GIVING & BUDGET

	<u>JAN-JUL 2024</u>	<u>AUG 2024</u>
GIVING AS OF 8/16/2024 _____	\$285,267	\$16,383
BUDGETED GIVING _____	307,650	46,200
DIFFERENCE _____	-22,383	-29,817
BUDGETED EXPENSE _____	\$459,864	\$59,222

For 2024, the budgeted contribution from reserves is \$140,408 (or 14% of reserves as of Jan 1).



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

(626) 653-6036 (voicemail or text) | [info@gracepasadena.org](mailto:info@gracepasadena.org) | [www.gracepasadena.org](http://www.gracepasadena.org)

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"Every day of our Christian experience should be a day of relating to God on the basis of His grace alone. We are not only saved by grace, but we also live by grace every day."

**JERRY BRIDGES**

"We need to remember that we are saved by grace when we fail. But we need to remember it much more when we succeed."

**TIMOTHY KELLER**

"Faith is a living, daring, confidence in God's grace."

**MARTIN LUTHER**

"Grace stands in direct opposition to any supposed worthiness on our part. To say it another way: Grace and works are mutually exclusive. As Paul said in Romans 11:6, "And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace." Our relationship with God is based on either works or grace. There is never a works-plus-grace relationship with Him.

**JERRY BRIDGES**

**AUGUST 18, 2024**

**ORDINARY TIME**