

PRELUDE

THE LORD IS MY SALVATION / KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

All Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

Psalm 96:6, 9

SONG OF PRAISE

HOW GREAT THOU ART / C. BOBERG

1. O Lord my God,
when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made;
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout
the universe displayed.

CHORUS
Then sings my soul,
my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art. (repeat)

2. And when I think,
that God, His Son not sparing,
sent Him to die,
I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross
my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

3. When Christ shall come
with shout of acclamation,
and take me home what joy
shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
and there proclaim,
“My God, how great Thou art!”

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

TREMBLE / MOSAIC

1. Peace, bring it all to peace
The storm surrounding me
Let it break at Your name
Still, call the sea to still
The rage in me to still
Every wave at Your name

CHORUS
Jesus, Jesus
You make the darkness tremble
Jesus, Jesus, You silence fear
Jesus, Jesus

2. Breathe, then call these bones to live
Call these lungs to sing
Once again, I will praise

BRIDGE
Your name
is a light that the shadows can’t deny
Your name cannot be overcome
Your name is alive forever lifted high
Your name cannot be overcome

THIS IS MY FATHER’S WORLD / M. D. BABCOCK

1. This is my Father’s world,
And to my list’ning ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father’s world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker’s praise.
This is my Father’s world:
He shines in all that’s fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

3. This is my Father’s world,
O let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world:
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav’n be one

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader O Lord, as long as I am apart from you, I am self-satisfied, because I have no standard by which to measure my low stature. But when I come near to you, there for the first time I see myself. In your light, I behold my darkness. In your purity, I behold my corrup- tion. My very confession of sin is the fruit of holiness. Oh! Divine Man, let me gaze on you more and more until, in the vision of your brightness, I loathe the sight of my impurity; until, in the blaze of that glory which human eye has not seen, I fall prostrate, blinded, broken, to rise again a new man in you. Amen.

—from George Matheson (19th Century Scottish Pastor and Hymn Writer)

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not re- ceived mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Caroline Huxell

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Gracious God, our light and our salvation, we come before you with our requests. Yet we confess that we often seek relief more than we seek your face. Forgive us when we treat you as a means to an end, rather than our greatest good. Teach us again the joy of gazing upon your beauty and resting in your presence.

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

Leader For our world, we cry out in the midst of wars and rumors of wars of nations that devour and oppress. Do not give us over to fear, but strengthen us to wait for you with courage. Be near to the oppressed, provide for the hungry, and bring peace where violence reigns. Lift the eyes of all people to see your goodness in the land of the living.

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

Leader For our city and neighborhoods, we ask that you would make us lights in the midst of darkness. Forgive us when we grow indifferent to injustice or fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. Lead us on a straight path, and help us to be a shelter for those in trouble, even as you have been a shelter for us.

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

Leader For our church family, we seek your presence among us. When we feel forsaken, remind us that you will take us in. When we grow weary, remind us that you are our stronghold. Teach us to encourage one another with songs of joy and to walk together in confidence, knowing you will never leave us or forsake us.

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

Leader Faithful God, we entrust these requests to you, confident in your Word: “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” Make us steadfast in prayer, patient in waiting, and joyful in hope.

All Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 place your offering in the blue box at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings; mail your offering to 254 N Lake Ave #287, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our app (iOS and Android) or website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 27:1-14 (NIV)

Leader The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

All The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader When the wicked advance against me to devour me,

All it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

Leader Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

All though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

Leader One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:

All that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Leader For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

All he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

Leader Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

All at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Leader Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, Lord, I will seek.

All Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.

Leader Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.

All Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

Leader Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.

All I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Leader Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE Nick Locke

The Ultimate Request

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 and return to your seat. Communion will be taken together after the Song of Communion.

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 SONG

ROCK OF AGES / A. TOPLADY

1. Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee; let the water and the blood from Thy wounded side which flowed be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure!

2. Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy law’s demands; Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyes shall close in death, When I rise to worlds unknown, And behold Thee on Thy throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

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.

CLOSING SONG

LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS (COL. 3:15-17) / Music: F. Ortega

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 Let the word of Christ richly dwell in you, as you counsel and teach one another With all wisdom, with all wisdom 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 Giving thanks through Christ to God the Father

BENEDICTION 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Leader May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

All Thanks be to God. Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newcomer’s Lunch | Today! after the service | If you’re new to Grace, we’d love to get to know you.

A Prayer Guide for the fall (begins today and runs to the start of Advent) is available at the Welcome Desk and on our website. Scan the QR code below to access the digital version.

Sunday School: Practicing the Way | Join us September 14 as we begin a new series on Community and Generosity

Children’s Ministry Volunteer Training | Sunday, September 14, at 8:30 am on the patio | Email Caroline at families@gracepasadena.org if you plan to attend or have any questions.

Scan the QR code to:

- access the Ordinary Time Prayer Guide
- fill out a Connect Card
- sign up for our weekly e-newsletter
- set up online giving
- access Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs, an album for Grace Pasadena by Bernard Chadwick and the Grace Pasadena Worship Team

GIVING & BUDGET

2025 BUDGET	\$765,701
GIVING AS OF 9/4/2025	287,034
GIVING NEEDED TO MEET BUDGET	478.667

grace PASADENA

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version

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“Christ has infinite loveliness to win and draw our love. He is more excellent than the angels of heaven... In beholding his beauty, the angels do day and night entertain and feast their souls and in celebrating of it do they continually employ their praises. Nor yet have the songs of angels ever declared all the excellency of Jesus Christ, for it is beyond their songs and beyond the thoughts of those bright intelligences to reach it.”

JONATHAN EDWARDS | A SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING OF DIVINE THINGS DENIED THE UNREGENERATE (18TH CENTURY AMERICAN PREACHER AND THEOLOGIAN)

“At the moment we see something beautiful, we undergo a radical decentering... we find we are standing in a different relation to the world than we were a moment before. It is not that we cease to stand at the center of the world, for we never stood there. It is that we cease to stand even at the center of our own world. We willingly cede our ground to the thing that stands before us.”

ELAINE SCARRY | ON BEAUTY AND BEING JUST (21ST CENTURY SCHOLAR AND AUTHOR)

“Everything in our world is indeed a pointer to something in a world beyond, a world which we can learn to contemplate and even to love for its own sake. If we don’t make this transition, if we simply accept natural and man-made beauty on its own terms, we mustn’t be surprised if it seems, on closer inspection, to collapse... The beauty of the natural world is, at best, the echo of a voice, not the voice itself.”

N.T. WRIGHT | SIMPLY CHRISTIAN (21ST CENTURY THEOLOGIAN)

“Beauty will save the world.”

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY | THE IDIOT (19TH CENTURY RUSSIAN NOVELIST)

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

ORDINARY TIME