

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;

All let me never be put to shame;

Leader Make your face shine on your servant;

All save me in your steadfast love!

SONGS OF PRAISE

DEATH WAS ARRESTED / A. KERSH; B. COKER; H. BALLTZGLIER; P. TAYLOR SMITH

1. Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began

2. Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began

CHORUS

*Oh Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You*

3. Released from my chains I'm a prisoner no more
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend
When death was arrested and my life began

CHORUS

*Oh Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's Your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You*

4. Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began
That's when death was arrested and my life began

5. Oh Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's Your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You

BRIDGE

Oh we're free, free, forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes we're free, free, forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began

FINAL REFRAIN

*When death was arrested and my life began
When death was arrested and my life began
When death was arrested and my life began*

THE GOODNESS OF JESUS / CITYAUGHT

1. Come you weary heart now to Jesus
Come you anxious soul now and see
There is perfect love
and comfort in your tears
Rest here in His wondrous peace

CHORUS

*Oh the goodness, the goodness of Jesus
Satisfied, He is all that I need
May it be, come what may,
that I rest all my days
In the goodness of Jesus*

2. Come find what this world
cannot offer
Come and find your joy here complete
Taste the living water, never thirst again
Rest here in His wondrous peace

3. Come and find your hope
now in Jesus
He is all He said He would be
Grace is overflowing
from the Saviour's heart
Rest here in His wondrous peace

Psalms 31:1, 16

CONFESSION OF SIN

TRISAGION / MUSIC: FERNANDO ORTEGA

Holy God, Holy and Mighty
Holy immortal one
Have mercy, have mercy on us

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

1 Peter 2:9-10

Leader But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

GIVE ME JESUS / AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

1. In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise,
give me Jesus

CHORUS

*Give me Jesus, give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus*

2. When I am alone
When I am alone
When I am alone, give me Jesus

3. When I come to die
When I come to die
When I come to die, give me Jesus

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All 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 Lord Jesus,
you stood at the right hand of the Father
to welcome your servant Stephen home.
We confess that when we face hardship,
we fix our eyes on our circumstances
rather than on you.
We become anxious and afraid.
By your Spirit, lift our gaze again.
Give us the mind of Christ,
that we might endure with faith
and trust in your purposes.
Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

Leader Merciful God,
you have shown us grace beyond measure
through the cross of your Son.
Yet we confess how slow we are to forgive.
We hold onto wounds and resist your mercy.
Forgive us for our bitterness.
By your Spirit, soften our hearts,
that we might pray for those who hurt us
and become a people marked by grace.
Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

Leader Sovereign Lord,
you are at work in ways we cannot see,
bringing life out of loss.

We pray for those who are suffering—
the grieving, the afflicted, and the weary.
Draw near to them and give them strength.
Help them to trust that nothing is wasted in your hands.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

All

Leader God of all wisdom and power,
we pray for those in authority
in our nation and in our communities.
Grant them wisdom to lead well,
courage to pursue justice,
and hearts marked by righteousness and integrity.
And as you are building your church
and sending your people into the world,
use us in our daily lives.
Give us boldness, faith, and perseverance,
that we might follow you wherever you lead.
Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer. 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.

OFFERING SONG

HAST THOU HEARD HIM, SEEN HIM, KNOWN HIM? / ORA ROWAN

1. Hast thou heard Him, seen Him,
known Him?
Is not thine a captured heart?
Chief among ten thousand own Him;
Joyful choose the better part.

Chorus

*Captivated by His beauty,
Worthy tribute haste to bring;
Let His peerless worth constrain thee,
Crown Him now unrivaled King.*

2. What can strip the seeming beauty
From the idols of the earth?
Not a sense of right or duty,
But the sight of peerless worth.

3. 'Tis that look that melted Peter,
'Tis that face that Stephen saw,
'Tis that heart that wept with Mary,
Can alone from idols draw.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-8:1

^{6:8} And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. ¹¹ Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹² And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, ¹³ and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us." ¹⁵ And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

^{7:54} Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he

cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

^{8:1} And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God!**

MORNING MESSAGE

Nick Locke

Faithful in Suffering

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

HYMN FOR THE WILDERNESS / NOAH SIEROTA

1. Tried on my own to satisfy
All of my heartache but I grew tired
But there is a well that won't run dry
and its full of life

PRE-CHORUS

Teach me to not forget
You turn dry ground to flower beds
You consider the lily's bloom
In meadows you lead me to

CHORUS

You walk with me in the wilderness
There's not a grief you haven't seen or been buried with
You're in my chest and every circumstance
Like desert streams, water bleeds out of the rock that follows me

2. You take the dust and make it change
With holy breath you speak my name
Forming and shaping me by your flame
But I'm still so safe

COMMUNION ACCLAMATION

Leader Let us 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

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS / THOMAS CHISHOLM

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou has been, Thou forever wilt be.

CHORUS

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

BENEDICTION

John 14:1-3

Leader "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

All **Thanks be to God, Amen!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Pasadena Book Club | Next meeting is Wednesday, May 27, at 7:30 pm at Legge Alley Studio | Scan the QR code to RSVP

Eastertide Prayer Guide & Guided Prayer Podcast | Scan the QR code for a digital version and link to the audio guide. Hard copies are available at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.



GIVING & BUDGET

	JAN-MAR 2026	APR 2026
GIVING & INCOME* AS OF 4/29/2026	\$126,217	\$27,346
BUDGETED EXPENSE	179,207	60,106
DIFFERENCE	52,990	32,760

* includes general offerings, ministry specific giving, and interest income



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"Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."

JOHN 15:20

"Stephen has been confessing Christ before men, and now he sees Christ confessing his servant before God."

F. F. BRUCE
(1910-1990)

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance..."

ROMANS 5:3-5

"Be of good comfort, brother, for we shall have a merry supper with the Lord this night."

JOHN BRADFORD
(1510-1555)

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 2026