

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Brothers, sisters, and friends: Let us worship God!
All “He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.”
Leader Let us confess with our mouths, “Jesus is Lord,”
All and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.
Leader “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
All Let us call upon our true God, who happily reveals himself to us, believing him in our hearts, confessing him with our mouths, worshipping him in spirit and in truth! —based on Ps. 91:2; Ro.10:9, 13

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY / R. HEBER

1. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art and evermore shall be
3. Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy,
there is none beside Thee;
perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

All: You are the Sovereign One, O God, and rightly to be blessed!
Your name shall ever be upon our lips.
You have heard the poor and saved them from trouble.
You dazzle us with your brightness and overshadow us as with a great cloud:
we rejoice at what we can see and marvel at what we cannot see.
You have enlightened believers; their faces reflect your radiance.
Aglow with the splendor of your promised redemption,
we gather to worship you, ruler of nations and our lives. Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

PROVIDE FOR ME / R. DELMORE

Maker of the heavens
Maker of the earth
I look up to the mountains
Where does my help come from?
It comes from You, it comes from You
It comes from You
My strength and my shield
You will save me in times of trouble
You will hold me in times of doubt
You will provide for me
Lover of my soul
You will provide for me

OCEANS / M. CROCKER, J. HOUSTON, S. LIGHTELM

1. You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand
CHORUS
I will call upon Your Name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine

2. Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail
and fear surrounds me
You’ve never failed
and You won’t start now

BRIDGE
Spirit lead me where
my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet
could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Almighty God,
we confess how hard it is to be your people.
You have called us to be the church,
to be the hands and feet 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 light to a broken and dark world.
Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit.
This we pray in Jesus’ powerful name. Amen.

(Silence is kept together.)

SONG OF ASSURANCE

SING TO JESUS / F. ORTEGA

1. Come and see, look on this mystery
The Lord of the universe, nailed to a tree
Christ our God, spilling His Holy blood
Bowing in anguish, His sacred head
Refrain 1
Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame
Lord of our sinful hearts,
He is our great redeemer
Sing to Jesus, honor His name
Sing of His faithfulness,
pouring His life out unto death
2. Come you weary,
and He will give you rest
Come you who mourn, lay on His breast
Christ who died, risen in Paradise
Giver of mercy, Giver of life
Refrain 2
Sing to Jesus, His is the throne
Now and forever
He is the King of Heaven
Sing to Jesus, we are His own
Now and forever sing
for the love our God has shown
Final Refrain
Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame
Lord of our sinful hearts
He is our great redeemer
Sing to Jesus, honor His name
Sing to Jesus, His is the throne
Now and forever
He is the King of Heaven
Sing to Jesus, we are His own
Now and forever sing for the love our
God has shown

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE

Leader Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and transformed!
—based on 2 Cor. 3:17-18

All Thanks be to God!

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. Middle School students are also invited to join Pastor Ben for Sunday School.

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

*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 address: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Esther 4:1-17 (ESV)

¹ When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. ² He went up to the entrance of the king’s gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king’s gate clothed in sackcloth. ³ And in every province, wherever the king’s command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.
⁴ When Esther’s young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. ⁵ Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king’s eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was. ⁶ Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate, ⁷ and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king’s treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. ⁹ And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, ¹¹ “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.”
¹² And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. ¹³ Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” ¹⁵ Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ¹⁶ “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” ¹⁷ Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre

“If I Perish, I Perish”
Sermon Series: The Good News According to Esther

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Loving Father, help us to remain confident in your promise of life – as those who walk now by faith and not by sight – that we may make it our aim to please you and do your will, knowing that you will never drive us away and that you guard our lives at all times.
For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader Lord Jesus, the nations of this world are in your hand, and while many lords and leaders rule over us, we acknowledge your name alone as our Lord and Savior. May peoples and leaders cry out to you in their distress and seek the justice and peace that flows from your life. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader God of hope, grant comfort and restore all who suffer, all those who in this present life groan under their burden. Grant that they may know the power of your risen life. Make us willing agents of your compassion, and strengthen us to minister your wholeness to others.
For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

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 PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

For those searching: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Give me not only understanding, but also an experience of your love and presence. Amen.

For faith and belief: Lord Jesus, I am weak and sinful, but you call me beloved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death and offering forgiveness and renewal. I hear you calling, and so I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Amen.

For those struggling with sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, to ask for help, and to follow you faithfully in life. Amen.

SONGS OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

WE ARE NOT OVERCOME / BIFROST ARTS

CHORUS
Because of His great love
We are not overcome
Because of His great love
We are not overcome
1. Flesh will fail, bones will break
Thieves will steal, the earth will shake
Night will fall, light will fade
The Lord will give, and take away

2. Put no trust in the earth
In the ground you stand upon
Flowers fade into dust
The Lord will make a place for us
3. Have no fear, for your life
Turn your cheek, Turn your cheek
Bear the yoke, love in death
The Lord will give life and breath

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING / R. ROBINSON

1. Come Thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I’m fixed upon it,
mount of Thy redeeming love!
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by Thy help I’m come;
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood

3. Oh to grace how great a debtor,
daily I’m constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to Thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart, oh take and seal it;
seal it for Thy courts above

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader Go in peace, in the knowledge of God’s power. Go in confidence, in the knowledge of God’s strength. Go in joy, in the knowledge of God’s love. Go with your God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — and be the salt and light of the world!

All Thanks be to God! Amen!

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
ORDINARY TIME

Epiphany follows Christ’s birth and points us out from that moment to the world. The Magi traveled from afar to worship Jesus, and their eyes were opened to who God is and what he is doing. The Light is dawning in the darkness, drawing in all peoples. As Philip Reinders says: “Epiphany calls us to live God’s mission, announcing the good news of Christ’s arrival to every culture and to those who live across the street, bearing the light of Jesus to the nations and to those who share a home with us. We, the church, are sent out as the manifestation of Jesus to a watching world.” May we, with eyes wide open, see and celebrate the fact that Jesus is the light of the world—and of our lives too.

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **2/22:** Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30PM at the Church Office
- **2/24 - 2/25:** Men’s Retreat. Register via the Announcements page.
- **3/19:** Baptism + Lord’s Supper Workshop for Parents/Families @ 9:15AM Chili Cook-Off after the service!
- **4/2:** Start of Holy Week. Stay tuned for details.

Scan the QR code below for more details, other announcements and contact information!



GRACE PASADENA’S VISION STATEMENT

Grace Pasadena exists to **Experience** & **Extend** the life-giving grace of God

- **As** we grow in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- **In** every sphere of life
- **For** our neighborhoods, city and the world

GRACE PASADENA’S CORE VALUES

God-Centered Worship – We seek to be transformed in worship as we experience the wonder of God and respond appropriately

Gospel-Driven Identity – We seek a personal experience of the gospel that both humbles us, and assures us that we are more deeply valued and loved by God than we can possibly imagine

Outward-Facing Community – We seek the betterment of our city as we extend God’s grace by loving our neighbors as ourselves

Kingdom-Minded Movement – We seek to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by creating community and global partnerships that can reach and serve those in need

GIVING & BUDGET

	JAN-DEC ‘22	JAN ‘23*	FEB ‘23*
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$546,803	\$28,162	\$15,539
BUDGETED GIVING _____	501,000	--	--
DIFFERENCE _____	+45,803	--	--

* as of 2/17/2022; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors; 2023 budget will be finalized and posted in the next few weeks



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“You can kill us, but you cannot harm us.”

JUSTIN MARTYR | *To EMPEROR ANTONINUS PIUS*

“What God is doing may be mystery, but who God is is not. So faith can remain itself and retain its integrity by suspending judgment. Jesus underwrites such faith when he promises, ‘I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall wander in the dark.’ He does not say we will never walk in the dark, but that we do not wander in the dark or have a way of life at home in darkness. To anyone not knowing the anguish of such a situation, the distinction may sound trivial—the darkness appears as dark and the dilemma as agonizing. But neither is ultimate, for the outcome lies with God.”

OS GUINNESS | *GOD IN THE DARK*

Instructions for living a life:
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

MARY OLIVER | *FROM “SOMETIMES”*

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
FEBRUARY 19, 2023