

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Let us worship God,
for whom our souls thirst and our bodies long.
**All We have come to hear the Word God has sent,
for we are in great need.**
Leader God’s Word will not return empty
but will accomplish through us his holy purpose.
All Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negeb!
Leader Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
**All All who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing their sheaves with them.**
Leader Blessed are you who weep, for you shall be comforted.
Let all who weep, now sing! —based on Is. 55:11-12, Ps. 126; Mt. 5:4

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

AMAZING GRACE / J. NEWTON

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved!
How precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers,
toils and snares
I have already come!
’Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4. When we’ve been there
ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
than when we’ve first begun!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

All: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
we praise you for making us, redeeming us, and sustaining us by your love!
With amazing grace you call us and welcome us as we are, not as we should be.
Who in heaven or on earth is like you?
We come before you emptied of all that would distract,
seeking all that would redeem.
Let these moments before you and together with your people
not become so routine as to be predictable,
nor so familiar as to be conventional.
Surprise us with your presence as we worship you! **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

PENSIVE, DOUBTING, FEARFUL HEART / J. NEWTON

1. Pensive, doubting, fearful heart,
hear what Christ the Savior says;
every word should joy impart,
change thy mourning into praise.
Yes, He speaks and speaks to thee,
may He help thee to believe;
then thou presently will see
thou has little cause to grieve.

2. Fear thou not, nor be ashamed;
all thy sorrows soon shall end,
I, who heaven and earth have framed,
am thy Husband and thy Friend;
I, the High and Holy One,
Israel’s God, by all adored,
as thy Savior will be known,
thy Redeemer and thy Lord.

3. For a moment I withdrew,
and thy heart was filled with pain;
but my mercies I’ll renew;
Thou shall soon rejoice again;
though I seem to hide my face,
very soon my wrath shall cease;
’tis but for a moment’s space,
ending in eternal peace.

4. Though afflicted, tempest tossed,
comfortless awhile thou art,
do not think thou can be lost,
Thou art graven on my heart;
all thy wastes I will repair;
Thou shalt be rebuilt anew;
and in thee it shall appear
What the God of love can do.

AT THE CROSS / I. WATTS; B. CHADWICK

1. Alas and did my Savior bleed?
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
for such a worm as I?

2. Was it for crimes that I have done,
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity; Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

3. Well might the sun in darkness hide
and shut His glories in.
When Christ the mighty maker died
for man the creature’s sin.

4. But drops of grief can ne’er repay
the debt of love I owe:
Here Lord, I give myself away,
’tis all that I can do.
Hallelujah, I’m forgiven.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you love us, but we have not loved you.
You have opened your heart to us, and in our pride we have spurned your care.
You have given us all things, and we have loved your gifts
more than we have loved you, the giver.
We have grieved you and caused hurt to others,
and we are not worthy to be called your children.
Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed
and sorry for all we have done to displease you.
As we receive your forgiveness, help us to turn from death to life
and show us what that might look like in our thoughts, words and deeds today. **Amen.**

Silence is kept together

SONG OF ASSURANCE

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS / R. LOWRY

1. What can take away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Chorus
*O, precious is the flow,
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!*

2. For my pardon this I see,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!
For my cleansing this my plea,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!

3. Nothing can for sin atone,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!
Naught for good that I have done,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!

4. This is all my hope and peace,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!
This is all my righteousness,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE

Leader Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to
anger, and abounding in steadfast love. In Christ, we are forgiven and
made new! Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
All Thanks be to God! —based on Joel 2:13; 2 Cor. 9:15

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 & 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

John 11:17-37 (ESV)

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb
four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the
Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.
²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary
remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask
from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴
Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last
day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in
me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me
shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that
you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private,
“The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose
quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was
still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her
in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her,
supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came
to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you
had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping,
and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his
spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said
to him, “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not
he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Marc Choi

*“The Good News of Disappointment”
Sermon Series: Characteristics of Change*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Merciful Savior, we pray for the poor in spirit and the disappointed,
that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven and see you face to
face. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader We pray for the world, for which you suffered, to be delivered from
war, murder, famine, and disaster. Surround those in danger with
your protection and deliverance. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader We pray for the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor their
hope be taken away. Where there is scarcity, may your Church
extend your abundance with joy and courage. 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. Participate as you feel comfortable.*
PRAYER: *Are you in need of prayer? Leaders of Grace are ready to pray with you during
Communion; find them at either side of the Communion lines. Share your needs as you feel
comfortable. If you do not want to share, simply say you need prayer and leave it at that.*
CHILDREN: *Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropri-
ate 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

HOW LONG / BIFROST ARTS

How long, will You turn Your face away?
How long, do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way, how long?

How long, till Your children find their rest?
How long, till You draw them to Your breast?
We go on, holding to Your promises, how long?

Till You wipe away the tears from every eye
Till we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain? Jesus give us hope again

How long, till Your word will still the storm?
How long, till You bear Your mighty arm?
How we groan, till You snatch us from the thorns, how long?

How long, sweet the dawn that ends the race?
How long, weak our hearts but strong our legs?
Looking on, great the cloud of witnesses, how long?

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader May the God of love, who shared his love, strengthen us in our love for others. May the Son who shared his life grant us grace, that we might share our life. And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us empower us to be only and always for others.

All Thanks be to God! Amen!

LOVING OUR CITY & NEIGHBORS

The season of Lent calls us to find ourselves by turning to God and to others. If you're already not familiar with our city ministry partners, would you take some time this Lent to learn about them and consider how you might join their work of loving our neighbors right here in our city? In the same way, could you get to know our Park Ministry and consider how you might support it? Information and opportunities are available at the Mercy Table in the lobby. Let's keep a holy Lent together!

- **Door of Hope:** visit <https://doorofhope.us>
- **Elizabeth House:** visit <https://www.elizabethhouse.net>
- **Olive Crest:** visit <https://www.olivecrest.org>
- **Pasadena Park Ministry:** email Kelly at mercy@gracepasadena.org

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT	From the church's earliest days, Lent was a time of preparation for Easter, or the Resurrection. It was celebrated not on Sunday, the Lord's Day, but also in a special festival of the Resurrection. As we look forward to the Resurrection, Lent is traditionally focused on repentance. Speaking biblically, to repent means to make a change in our attitudes, words, and lifestyles. The Christian life in its totality is a life of repentance. Each day, we are to turn away more and more from sin and self-centeredness and more and more towards our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to experience true freedom and rest.
CHRISTMAS	
EPIPHANY	
LENT	
EASTER	
PENTECOST	
ORDINARY TIME	

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **3/19:** Baptism + Lord's Supper Workshop for Parents/Families @ 9:15AM
Chili Cook-Off after the service!
- **3/18:** Youth Group Knott's Berry Farm trip
- **3/20:** College Faith and Film night
- **4/2:** Start of Holy Week
4/2: Palm Sunday Service/Congregational Meeting to approve 2023 budget
4/7: Good Friday Service @ 6PM
4/9: Easter Celebration in the Park @10AM
 - Children's Easter Extravaganza before the service, time TBD
 - Church + Community Potluck after the service (sign up here to bring something: bit.ly/3kE8SyP)

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

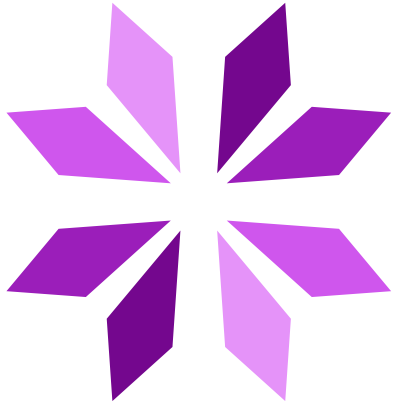
Outward-Facing Community – We seek the betterment of our city as we extend God's grace by loving our neighbors as ourselves

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

	<u>IAN-DEC '22</u>	<u>IAN-FEB '23*</u>	<u>MAR '23*</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$546,803	\$60,751	\$6,107
BUDGETED GIVING _____	501,000	78,000	39,000
DIFFERENCE _____	+45,803	-17,249	-32,893

* as of 3/9/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 (NIV)

Lent is inescapably about repenting. Repentance is a change in direction, a Spirit-empowered turning around. Repentance, then, is the first step we make toward God. But to turn toward God we must turn away from something else.
That something else is our sins.

ESAU MCCAULLY | LENT (THE FULLNESS OF TIME)

My idea of God is not a divine idea. It has been shattered time after time. God shatters it himself. He is the greatest iconoclast.

CS LEWIS | A GRIEF OBSERVED

To live by grace means to acknowledge my whole life story, the light side and the dark. In admitting my shadow side I learn who I am and what God's grace means.

BRENNAN MANNING | RAGAMUFFIN GOSPEL

THE 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 12, 2023



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