

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace;
approach our God, who is full of mercy;
come and see how his eyes are full of love.

All **We will praise God with all our heart
and glorify the name of the Most High forever.** —based on Mark 10:21

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION / WORDS. F. FRANZEN; ARR. REINDEER TRIBE

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory
foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name!

2. He brings God’s rule, O Zion,
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name!

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion,
your Savior’s rule embrace!
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before Him,
their voices will adore Him.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

All: Journey with us, O holy God,
as we continue our way to the cross.
Sharpen our focus, that our attention
may center more on you than ourselves.
Lead us through the shadows of darkness
and the eye of the needle to your everlasting kingdom;
prepare our hearts, that we might be a people of prayer,
ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ,
in whom all things are possible. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

HE IS LORD / J. BARNETT

I will call on the name
of the Lord, my God
I will lift up my voice
to give praise to my King

*He’s the light in the darkness
He’s the calm in the storm
He’s the hope of the righteous
He is Lord, He is Lord*

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Almighty God,
you have given us your law for our delight;
how sweet are your words to our mouths, sweeter than honey.
We know your commands:
Do not murder; do not commit adultery,
do not steal; do not bear false witness;
do not defraud; honor your father and mother.
Though we try and keep these commands
and do what is right, we still lack one thing:
we are slow to sell all that we have and give to the poor.
By your grace, show us what keeps us from living for others
and from trusting your faithful provision;
show us how we might keep this command today.
By your Spirit, may we follow your Son, who emptied himself for our sake,
and so find the true treasure of heaven.
In the name of your Son, we pray. **Amen.**

Silence is kept together

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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

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

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!**

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

Mark 10:17-27 (ESV)

¹⁷ And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³ And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre

*“A Man Unchanged”
Sermon Series: Characteristics of Change*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Gracious Father, giver of every good gift,
continue to show us more of who you are
and all of the ways you bless us,
so that out of the overflow of your love,
we may become like you, people who do good.
For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

All

Leader Lord Jesus, who became poor for our sakes,
grant that we would not cling to the things you have given us
as though they are the means of our salvation,
but instead help us to spend our time and resources
lavishly on the work of your kingdom and the people
you have put in our lives. For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

All

Leader Spirit of God, you give us Christ’s heart for the world;
help us minister to those around us who are in need.
Comfort those who are distraught or grieving,
protect the hearts and minds of the vulnerable,
and grant that those in pain would know
your loving presence. For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

All

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 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

BLESSED ASSURANCE / F. CROSBY

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His spirit, washed in His blood.

CHORUS
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

AARON'S BLESSING / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord make His face to shine on you
May the Lord make His face to shine on you

And be gracious to you
And be gracious to you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May He keep you in perfect peace
May He keep you in perfect peace

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader

All

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.

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
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
ORDINARY TIME

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **3/19:** Baptism + Lord's Supper Workshop for Parents/Families @ 9:15AM
Chili Cook-Off after the service!
- **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

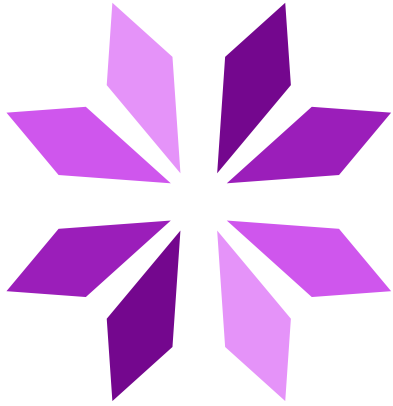
Outward-Facing Community – We seek the betterment of our city as we extend God's grace by loving our neighbors as ourselves

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	\$15,369
BUDGETED GIVING _____	501,000	78,000	39,000
DIFFERENCE _____	+45,803	-17,249	-23,631

* as of 3/16/2023; 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)

“Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion - it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ.”

BILLY GRAHAM

“The true god of your heart is what your thoughts effortlessly go to when there is nothing else demanding your attention.”

Tim Keller

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

BE THOU MY VISION, VERSE 2



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THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 19, 2023