

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

April 2, 2017

*To protect the Worship environment,  
please, no drinks in the Sanctuary, and remember to turn off cell phones.*

## THE GATHERING

### \*#26 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe—  
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He—  
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And tho this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph thru us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him—  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure:  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours thru Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also—  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:  
His kingdom is forever.

TEXT: Martin Luther; translated by Frederick H. Hedge; based on Psalm 46 MUSIC: Martin Luther

**\*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 46**

**\*Thy Mercy, My God, Is the Theme of My Song**

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue.  
Thy free grace alone from the first to the last  
Hath won my affections and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness I fall to the ground  
And weep for the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies Thy goodness I own  
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.

All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

Words by John Stoker Music by Sandra McCracken ©2001 Same Old Dress Music  
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**\*THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 12:33-37**

**THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**All: Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
we have followed too much the deceits and desires of our  
own hearts.  
we have offended against your holy laws.  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;  
and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Spare those who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared  
to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen**

**PRIVATE** (A time of silent and private confessions for personal sins)

**LEADER:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**ALL:** If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

## \* THE PROFESSION OF FAITH: ROMANS 10: 8-13

**ALL:** The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

## \*How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross, my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
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Words and Music by Stuart Townend ©1995 Thankyou Music. Administered worldwide by worshiptogether.com  
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## \*The Church's One Foundation

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

TEXT: Samuel J. Stone MUSIC: Brian Moss

## **\*THE DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Although giving is a significant part of worship, we do not collect the offering during our service. Two boxes are placed by the doors to receive your offering. Tithes and offerings for the General Fund are placed in the box without the "steeple." Offerings for the Building Fund are to be placed in the box with the "steeple," with check payable to Grace EPC Building Fund.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

10:45am: Ruby Mae Greene, Samuel Avery Greene, Ezra Campbell Greene

## **THE WELCOME**

At this time, please fill out the friendship register found at the side aisle. As the register is passed, please note those with whom you are worshipping so that you can greet one another after the service. If this is your first Sunday at Grace, please accept our invitation to worship with us again soon. If you would like information about Grace EPC, please take one of our brochures from the table in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home, please let us know and we will be happy to visit with you.

(CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR THEIR CLASSES AT THIS TIME:  
K-4TH GRADE — LINE UP IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE SANCTUARY.  
CONNECT CLASS [5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE] HEAD DIRECTLY TO ROOM 7)

(10:45AM SERVICE: INTERNATIONALS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL  
TEACHING TIME MAY BE DISMISSED AT THIS TIME TO ROOM 17 —JUST TO THE RIGHT AS YOU LEAVE THE SANCTUARY.)

*(THOSE WHO ARRIVE AFTER THE SERVICE HAS BEGUN MAY BE SEATED AT THIS TIME)*

## **THE WORD AND SACRAMENT**

### **THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **THE READING OF SCRIPTURE**

James 1:18-27

### **RESPONSE TO THE READING OF THE WORD**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

### **THE MESSAGE FROM SCRIPTURE**

Bill Vogler

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Table of the Lord is open to each person who acknowledges himself/herself to be a sinner in the sight of God and without hope for salvation except in His sovereign mercy; who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners; who receives and depends upon Christ alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel; and who promises and resolves in humble reliance upon the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ.

If this is your profession of faith, you are welcome at the Lord's Table. As you come, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and eat. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.

### #177 What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I Am,"  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And thro' eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And thro' eternity I'll sing on.

TEXT: American Folk Hymn MUSIC: William Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835

### Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee;  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shalt be.  
Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known;  
Yet how rich is my condition, God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior too;  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue;  
Oh, while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might,  
Foes may hate and friends disown me; show Thy face, and all is bright.

Go then earthly fame and treasure, come disaster, scorn and pain;  
In Thy service pain is pleasure, with Thy favor loss is gain.  
I have called Thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on Thee;  
Storms may howl and clouds may gather, all must work for good to me.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer;  
Heaven's eternal day's before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days;  
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

Words by Henry Lyte Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (alt. by Bill Moore) ©2001 Bill Moore Music UBP ARR CCLI#245668

## Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners

Jesus! What a friend for sinners!  
Jesus! Lover of my soul;  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,  
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

(chorus)  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
Hallelujah! What a friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness!  
Let me hide myself in Him.  
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,  
He, my strength, my victory wins.

(repeat chorus)

Jesus! I do now receive Him,  
More than all in Him I find.  
He hath granted me forgiveness,  
I am His, and He is mine.

(repeat chorus)

Words: John Wilbur Chapman. Music: Rowland Prichard.

## \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### \*THE BENEDICTION

### \*#625 Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

## AFTER SERVICE PRAYER

It is our sincere desire to pray effectively for the particular needs of those worshipping with us this morning. If you have a prayer concern that you want shared with the congregation during the prayers of the people, please call the church office or one of the elders prior to the service with your request. If you desire prayer on a personal matter, we invite you to meet with the elders in the front pews after the Benediction.

Available for prayer after 8:15 worship: Todd Koch & Warran Wiebe  
Available for prayer after 10:45 worship: Darby Ritter & Dan Wethington

\*Congregation will stand.