

Face of Grace
Sunday, July 28, 2024

Prelude

Peace is Flowing Like a River

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's forgiveness, let us confess our sin.

To you, O God, all hearts are open and all desires known. We come to you confessing our failures by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us in your mercy and remember us in your love, that your face of grace might shine on us all.

Amen.

Beloved people of God: By the power of the Holy Spirit, God gives you a new birth. Through the dying and rising of Jesus Christ, God gives you new life. By the almighty power of God, you are forgiven all your sins. May the face of God bring you comfort, courage, and peace.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever, flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that
Flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. *(Refrain)*

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. *(Refrain)*

Invocation

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Kyrie

Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy."

Refrain:

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, every day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord... *(Refrain)*
2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor,
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord... *(Refrain)*
3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family.
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord... *(Refrain)*

Prayer of the Day

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

"Face of Grace" Litany

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? *(Psalm 42)*

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. *(Psalm 67)*

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God, let your face shine, that we may be saved. *(Psalm 80)*

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

For we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as servants for Jesus' sake. God has given us the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ. *(2 Corinthians 4)*

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Hymn

All Are Welcome

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace,
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear **the image of God's face**,
Let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Reading

Mark 8:27-37

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And Jesus sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

Message

Hymn of the Day

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain. *(Refrain)*

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. *(Refrain)*

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. *(Refrain)*

Apostles' Creed

(Alternative Version, with credit to several Lutheran congregations in the Twin Cities)

We believe in you, O God,

**Who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and earth, architect of time,
quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground,
and by your breath we are given life.**

We believe in you, O God,

**Who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human.
You lived among us to reveal your justice, died among us to break the bonds of sin and death,
and were raised among us to bring abundant life.**

We believe in you, O God,

**Who transforms us by the Holy Spirit, draws us into community, moves us to action,
and inspires us to hope against hope. You breathe new life into a fallen world and equip us
to proclaim the good news of resurrecting love.**

All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

*Thank you for your continued financial support.
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Offertory Response

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

Take, oh, take me as I am, summon out what I shall be,
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Lord God, we have received from you more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us by your holy presence and your holy word, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. Help us to see the face of Christ in every person we meet. In your name we pray.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his face to you and grant you peace. In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Comforter. *(Numbers 6)*

Amen.

Closing Hymn

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Chorus:

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging,
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing,
It finds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing? *(Chorus)*

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing,
All things are mine since I am his, how can I keep from singing? *(Chorus)*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In Our Prayers:

*Prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for four weeks
unless a longer duration is requested through the church office.*

Leon Fritzke, Dick Erickson, Marlin & June Gens (parents of Brett Gens),
Alex Lewandowski, Aiko Landgraf (niece of Sue Magnuson),
our missionary in Papua New Guinea, Rev. Andrew Ronnevik and family