

Sunday Service with Communion

Believe: Who He Is

May 7, 2017



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Welcome! We are so happy that you are here with us today. Our desire is to be like another home for you. We encourage you to register your name on the fellowship pad which you will find at the end of the row where you are sitting. If you are new to Grace or to the area and are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider joining our family here at Grace. A Fellowship Hour is held after the Worship Service, and we invite you to stay for a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in our Worship Service today. This meal is for Christ Followers who recognize their sinfulness and their need for Christ's forgiveness and strength, and desire to live a new life in Christ. We receive this meal recognizing the presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and the wine. ***Children who have not been instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament may come to the Lord's Table with their parents for a blessing, but are asked to fold their arms across their chests to indicate they are to receive a blessing.*** All those who commune are asked to indicate their participation by marking the appropriate column in the Red Attendance Books as they are passed at the beginning of the Worship Service.

IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT, the wine is made available in both the individual glasses and the common cup. Following the distribution of the bread, the individual cups will be offered. Then the common cup will be offered to those who do not have an individual cup in their hand. The acolyte will then gather the individual glasses. ***For those who have an intolerance to wine, grape juice is lighter colored in the individual communion glasses.*** Those who find it difficult to walk to the altar can be communed in the pew. Please inform the usher of your need.

ATTENDANCE BOOKS PLEASE BE SURE TO PASS ALONG THE RED ATTENDANCE BOOKS IN YOUR ROW AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SIGN IT. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MINISTRY OF CARE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Believe: Who He Is

Who is God? Have you ever thought about that question? If someone were to ask you, how would you answer. Perhaps you would say Jesus. Perhaps you would say creator. The list goes on endlessly. But how does God work? What is the relation of the Father to the Son and to the Holy Spirit? The Apostles' Creed, written almost 2000 years ago, answers these questions and is still amazing to this day.

Today: When Moses saw God through the burning bush, Moses ask who should he tell his people had sent him. He went back to his people and said, "HE IS sent me."

(Asterisks (**)) indicate that the people stand)

*Jesus lives! The victory’s won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.*

*Jesus lives! For me he died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living.
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.*

**** THE INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: *O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!*

PEOPLE: YOU HAVE SET YOUR GLORY ABOVE THE HEAVENS.

Pastor: *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your Hands,*

PEOPLE: WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM.

Pastor: *You have made us a little lower than the heavenly beings and
crowned us with glory and honor.*

PEOPLE: AND LET US RULE EVERYTHING YOUR HANDS HAVE MADE.

Pastor: *Lord our Lord*

PEOPLE: HOW EXCELLENT IS YOUR NAME IN ALL THE EARTH!

Taken from Psalm 8

**** THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

*(We greet one another with the handshake of peace and with the words
“The Peace of the Lord be with you.”)*

**** THE HYMN OF PRAISE** “This is the Feast of Victory of Our God”

CHORUS

**THIS IS THE FEAST OF VICTORY FOR OUR GOD,
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

***Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. (CHORUS)***

***Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are his. (CHORUS)***

***Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation
Blessing, honor, glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (CHORUS)***

***For the Lamb who was slain
Has begun his reign. Alleluia!***

***This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

During Confession we take time to slow down and realize how we have lost God's Great Story of goodness. We have served ourselves and our interests above God.

(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God's forgiveness)

Pastor: O Almighty God,

PEOPLE: WE CONFESS THAT WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS BUT DO NOT ALWAYS RECEIVE IT OR LIVE IT OUT. WE LOOK FOR SIGNS OF ETERNAL LIFE AROUND US BUT FAIL TO TRUST IN THE NEW LIFE GIVEN TO US NOW. FORGIVE US FOR OUR SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS AND NARROW WAY OF UNDERSTANDING. OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO RECEIVE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST IN OUR DAILY LIVES, THAT WE MIGHT LIVE ETERNALLY. IN THE NAME OF OUR SAVIOR WE PRAY. AMEN.

Pastor: The Story of Jesus is Christ is risen!

There is new life everywhere. There is Good News everywhere. There is nothing lost that cannot be found, no dark place where light cannot shine, no awful past that cannot lead to a bright future. You are God's beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the hope and promise of Christ. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Almighty and merciful God, You have ordered our earthly life that we must

walk by faith and not by sight. Give us such trust in Your fatherly care that we show our faith by our courage in the face of all perplexities. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PEOPLE: AMEN

THE FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

The phrase “a land flowing with milk and honey” is certainly metaphorical. Moses doesn’t mean that the rivers and streams of the promised land literally flow with milk and honey rather than with water. God’s promise isn’t just that they will possess the land but that they will find rest, abundance, and health in it.

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:1-4

This letter is punctuated with passages that sound an alarm: danger, both immanent and eternal, is at hand. The real danger is the gentle erosion of rock-solid commitments.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of

God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

**** THE HOLY GOSPEL**

John 10:22-33

Jesus loves to explain truth through everyday things like vines, fruit, fishing, building, and shepherding, as He does here. He is a master communicator. In this metaphor, Jesus is the shepherd. Eventually He becomes the sheep as well on the cross to be the sacrifice for us all.

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

**** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

SERMON HYMN

"Jesus Your Name"

***Jesus Your name is power, Jesus Your name is might.
Jesus Your name will break ev'ry stronghold; Jesus Your name is life.***

***Jesus Your name is healing, Jesus Your name gives sight.
Jesus Your name will free ev'ry captive; Jesus Your name is life.***

***Jesus Your name is holy, Jesus Your name brings light.
Jesus Your name above ev'ry other, Jesus Your name is life.***

THE SERMON

Pastor Cris Escher

Believe: Who He Is

**** THE OFFERTORY**

***Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us
A foretaste of the feast to come.***

**** THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

(After each petition)

Pastor: . . . Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

**** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: *The Lord be with you.*

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Pastor: *Lift up your hearts.*

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.

Pastor: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE HIM THANKS AND PRAISE.

*Pastor: The tree of life in the midst of the garden was the tree of our defeat.
Christ was lifted up on the tree of victory; and where life was lost, there life
has been restored. And so we praise you*

**PEOPLE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT,
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.**

**** THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"I Come O Savior to Thy Table"

*I come, O Savior, to your table, for weak and weary is my soul;
You, Bread of Life, alone are able to satisfy and make me whole.
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good!*

*Restless am I and heavy laden, with sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously, and gladden my heart that here is now your guest.
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good!*

*Your heart is filled with fervent yearning that I, a sinner, come to you;
I, Lord, to your sure mercy turning, my ancient bond of faith renew.
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good!*

*In hope I come to your high table, your testament of deepest love;
For by its grace I now am able to know the heart of God above.
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good!*

*What greater gift can I inherit? It is faith's bonded solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit, the covenant of hope and grace.
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good!*

*Your body crucified, O Savior, your blood which once for me was shed,
These are my life and strength forever, by them my hungry soul is fed.
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good!*

"The Old Rugged Cross "

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain. (CHORUS)*

CHORUS

**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. (CHORUS)*

*To the 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. (CHORUS)*

"In Christ Alone"

*In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest draught and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

**** THE BLESSING**

Pastor: Christ is Risen!

PEOPLE: HE IS RISEN, INDEED. ALLELUIA!

Pastor: Listen up Church! He is our true God. He is one. He Is Jesus. Through Him all things were created, and by Him we are redeemed.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE CLOSING HYMN** "On What Has Now Been Sown"

*On what has now been sown Your blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Yours alone to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise, and Yours alone shall be the praise!*

*To You our wants are known, from You are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Your own, and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive, and to Your word a blessing give.*

*Oh, grant that each of us, now met before you here,
May meet together thus when You and Yours appear,
And follow You to heav'n, our home. E'en so, amen! Lord Jesus, come!
I will raise forever more.*

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Today

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
Worship
Korean Church Worship

May 7, 2017

8:45 pm
10:00 am
1:00 pm

This Week

AA
Via de Cristo @ Bocks home
Surviving Spouses
Grace BOD
Mahjong
Bible Study @Perkin's Restaurant
Confirmation Class
Game Night
Korean Church Prayer Meeting
Grace Hello Class

Sunday, 7:30 pm
Monday, 6:30 pm
Tuesday, 12:30 pm
Tuesday, 5:15 pm
Thursday, 12:00 noon
Thursday, 7:00 am
Thursday, 3:00 pm
Friday, 6:00 pm
Saturday, 6:00 am
Saturday, 10:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS will begin at 8:45 am. Students from grades 4 through 7 will be together in one class taught by Barbara Ruzicka. We will be using the children's room. Friends are welcome. And of course, all adults are invited to participate in the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS Steven Choung, 5/8; Carol Miller and Phyllis Schimkat, 5/9; Norm Neuberger, 5/11.

ANNIVERSARIES No anniversaries listed this week.

If we have missed your anniversary or birthday, please drop us a note in the office or email us at Gracelutheranpsl@gmail.com.

THE FLOWERS adorning the altar this morning are given to the glory of Jesus, our Savior by Claren Kerstner in memory of her daughter, Bridget Raymond, and Greta Tuning in memory of her husband, Richard Tuning.

FLOWER CHART The flower chart continues to be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you would like to order flowers to adorn the altar for a specific Sunday, please write your name on the appropriate line. The cost per Sunday is \$27.00. We thank you for your help.



THURSDAYS, AT 3:00 pm, CONFIRMATION CLASSES are offered in the sanctuary. All are invited. If you would like a refresher course, please feel free to join us.