



Our God of Grace: The One Who Loves

"By grace you have been saved"

(Eph 2:5)

Call to Worship

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory
and the victory and the majesty,
for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.

**Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.**

(1 Chr 29:11)

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Psalm 65

Praise awaits you God in Zion
Soon all flesh to you will come
Though our sins prevail against us
You atone for every one
Blessed are those you choose and welcome
Dwelling in your courts of grace
We are filled with every blessing
Satisfied in you always

From your river ever-flowing
You give life to all the land
Autumn rains and grain at harvest
You provide for every man
All the year is crowned with bounty
Deserts bloom and hills bear fruit
Hills and valleys, all creation
Lift their hymn of praise to you

Holy God and mighty saviour
Hope of all the farthest seas
When we pray you hear and answer
You make known your wondrous deeds
By your strength you formed the mountains
Stilled the roaring of the waves
Earth rejoices at your goodness
Dawn and evening sing your praise

Confession and Assurance

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or remain seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

*“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isa 35:10)*

Psalm 147

Praise the Lord!
For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is
fitting. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he
gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**He heals the brokenhearted and binds
up their wounds. He determines the
number of the stars; he gives to all of
them their names.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

**The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts
the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make
melody to our God on the lyre! He covers
the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain
for the earth; he makes grass grow on the
hills.

**He gives to the beasts their food, and
to the young ravens that cry. His
delight is not in the strength of the
horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a
man, but the Lord takes pleasure in
those who fear him, in those who hope
in his steadfast love.**

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your
God, O Zion!

**For he strengthens the bars of your
gates; he blesses your children within
you. He makes peace in your borders;
he fills you with the finest of the
wheat.**

He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like
wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

**He hurls down his crystals of ice like
crumbs; who can stand before his cold?**

He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow and the waters
flow.

**He declares his word to Jacob, his
statutes and rules to Israel. He has not
dealt thus with any other nation; they
do not know his rules. Praise the Lord!**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and
shall be forever, age after age. Amen!**

God Speaks to us through His Word

First Reading: Creation: Gen 1:1-2:3

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Luke 15:11-32

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Response to God's Word

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**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.
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.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deut 16:17)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The stewards will distribute the wine and bread. Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood
of your dear Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him,
we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Amen.

Oh the mercy of God

Oh the mercy of God, The glory of
grace
That You choose to redeem us, To
forgive and restore
And You call us Your children, Chosen
in Him
To be holy and blameless, To the glory
of God

*To the praise of His Glorious Grace
To the praise of His Glory and Power
To Him be all Glory Honour and Praise
For ever and ever and ever A-men*

Oh the richness of Grace, The depths
of His love
In Him is redemption, The forgiveness
of sin
You called us as righteous, Predestined
in Him
For the praise of His Glory, Included in
Christ.

Oh the Glory of God expressed in His
Son
His image and likeness revealed to us
all
The plan of the ages completed in
Christ
That we be presented perfected in Him

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Benediction and Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Sermon Notes

Today we start a series entitled "Our God of Grace" in which we'll consider how God in love and grace, through Christ, rescues us for Himself, and how this grace continues to pour out into our daily lives, equipping us for our daily walk with the Lord in all circumstances. The series will run over five weeks as follows.

Our God of Grace

1. The One Who Loves
2. The One Who Pays
3. The One Who Secures
4. The One Who Frees
5. The Great Shepherd

Please pray that as we look to God to know more of His grace, that He would build our confidence in His sovereign power, mercy and grace to sustain us through these challenging times, and that any fears or anxieties we may have would be dissolved by the peace of God which passes understanding (Phil 4:4-7).