



Our God of Grace: The Means of Grace

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation."

(1 Peter 2:2)

Call to Worship

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

**Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the LORD!**

**May the LORD bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!**

(Ps 134)

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 67

O God, to us show mercy
And bless us in your grace;
Cause now to shine upon us
The brightness of your face;
That so your way most holy
On earth may soon be known,
And unto every people
Your saving grace be shown.

Let all the peoples praise you,
All tongues and tribes should sing,
For earth in rich abundance
To us her fruit shall bring.
The Lord our God shall bless us;
Let all the earth maintain
The praise it owes its Maker,
The reverence due His name.

O God, let all men praise you,
Let all the nations sing;
In every land let praises
And songs of gladness ring;
For you shall judge the people
In truth and righteousness,
And you shall lead the nations
Your justice to confess.

Confession and Assurance

Hear what God's word says:

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether." (Ps 139:1-4)

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 80

To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Testimony. Of Asaph, a Psalm.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved! O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.

They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!

But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

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: 2 Samuel 7:1-16 (The Lord's Covenant with David)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Our God of Grace: The Means of Grace (Mark Payne)

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. "*Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce.*" (Pro 3:9)

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

Copyright: 1997 Watershed Productions

Benediction and Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ,
Amen.**

Sermon Notes

Today we continue our series on “*Our God of Grace*” with “*The Means of Grace*”. Our goal in the series is to reflect on how God in love and grace, through Christ, rescues us for Himself, shields and protects us, and how this grace continues to pour out into our daily lives, equipping us for our daily walk with the Lord in all circumstances.

Our God of Grace

1. The One Who Loves
2. The One Who Reconciles
3. The One Who Shields
4. The One Who Frees
5. The One Who Transforms
6. *The Means of Grace*