

2020 03 29 The Service of the Word at “Grace”

IN THE NAME

P: If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,

C: He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead

P: Will also give life to your mortal bodies

C: Through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Rom 8:11)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: We confess that we are born in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. We deserve Your eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us.

Amen.

P: Upon this your confession and prayer I as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PSALM 91 v 1-6, 14-16

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,

nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.
“Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.
When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”
**C: Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Most merciful God, You saved humankind by the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith in Him who suffered on the cross, so that we may triumph in the power of His victory. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

P: Our reading from the Holy Scriptures comes from Romans 8:6-11.

“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

APOSTLES CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the**

dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

SERMON based on Romans 8:6-11.

P: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sermon “Yes, we are open!”

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray!

C: Gracious Father, we offer with joy and thanks what You have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions — as signs of Your goodness and symbols of our love. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, who offered Himself for us. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

We come, O Lord, with our broken hopes and disappointed dreams. Bind us up in Christ, that we may learn to pray with confidence, trusting in Your mercy to supply us with all things needful to us and to our salvation.

Almighty God, everlasting Father, You saw Israel in their despair and raised them up to hope by placing Your Spirit upon them. Join us together with the communion of saints in Christ, even though we must for a time stand apart. Raise us up from our weariness and grant us Your Spirit, that we may be strong in faith, bold in witness, holy in life and steadfast in hope.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O eternal Lord, Your Son has given us the new birth of water and the Word and planted faith in us, that we might be Your own children. Bless Your Church. Supply her with able, fearless and caring pastors to nurture us in Your Word. Raise up faithful fathers and those who will teach and pray in Your name in every Christian household. Keep Your Church in Your mercy, that she may believe without fear and love without limit even now.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for your guidance and wisdom for our congregations. Bless our efforts to reorganize how we walk together, stir us up by Your Spirit to live out fully who we are as Your chosen people. Help us to quickly establish our small group network, provide willing and caring coordinators, and enable us to live as the

community of your saints even in these changing circumstances, so that we can encourage one another, care for one another, pray for one another and share the eternal hope and joy that we have in Jesus Christ.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of power and might, You hold in Your hand all the might of man. Give to us good government and faithful leaders who will heed Your Word and pursue righteousness and justice. Bless and defend us against all destruction, especially from this deadly pandemic, and teach us to be patient and faithful citizens of this land, using ourselves and our resources wisely for the good of all.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O merciful Lord, grant Your compassion, patience and endurance to all who suffer illness, who are troubled in mind or anxious about what is happening. Give comfort to the grieving and peace to the dying, and give that same comfort and peace to us who live in the shadow and fear of death, that we would neither live nor grieve as people without hope but trust in You at every hour. Hear all our prayers, especially on behalf of all those we now silently name in our hearts.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O gracious God, You daily and richly grant us all things we need for this body and life. Bless our labours, and grant us wisdom to use the fruits of those labours wisely and well, for the care of our families, for the poor in their needs, and for the support of Your work in this congregation. Preserve us from fear and greed as we live and work alone, and turn us instead in love toward our neighbours however distant.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, God Almighty, through Your Son You have kept the promise of the ages and rescued us from sin. You have made us alive in Christ forever. Sustain us in this hope, that we may endure the tests, trials and troubles of this life and be ready when our Saviour comes again in His glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour †, and give you peace.

C: Amen.