

Citizens of Heaven and of Earth

October 29, 2023



Twenty-second Week
after Pentecost

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS – As we close this Season of Pentecost, we consider what it means to be citizens of heaven and earth. While we are temporary residents of earth, by faith, we are already citizens of heaven, and we look forward to when God will complete our citizenship in heaven. However, we are reminded in our readings that as we continue to live on the earth, God maintains order as he sees fit and according to His good will.

MORNING PRAYER: Almighty and merciful God, thank you for granting us peace and graciously sparing us from wars and foreign domination. Let us continue to live in your fear according to your will, giving no cause for wars or other punishment; govern and direct our leaders that they may not impede our obedience due to you but maintain righteousness and blessings under their governing; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: SERVICE OF THE WORD— CW, p. 38



OPENING HYMN:

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

*****Please Stand for the Last Verse*****

#98

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a

griefs to bear! What a priv - i - lege to car - ry
 an - y - where? We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—
 load of care? Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—

Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we of - ten
 Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so
 Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends de - spite, for -

for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we bear, All be -
 faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share? Je - sus
 sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer. In his

cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1820–86, alt.

Tune: CONVERSE (87 87 D) Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918.

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the seventh staff.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, thank you for granting us peace and graciously sparing us from wars and foreign domination. Let us continue to live in your fear according to your will, giving no cause for wars or other punishment; govern and direct our leaders that they may not impede our obedience due to you but maintain righteousness and blessings under their governing; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*****Please Be Seated*****

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 45: 1 – 7

Nearly 200 years before Cyrus was king of Persia, God demonstrated his authority over all history by proclaiming he would use that man to free his people. Throughout history, God's hand has been at play, directing and bending both good and tyrant leaders to do his will for the salvation of mankind. Nearly 750 years after Isaiah wrote these words, God turned the will of the Roman government to conduct a census so His Son would be born in Bethlehem.

This is what the Lord says to his anointed one, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him by stripping kings of their weapons, to open doors before him so that the gates cannot be shut. I myself will go before you, and I will level high mountains. I will break bronze doors into pieces, and I will cut through iron bars. I will give you treasures hidden in darkness and riches concealed in secret places, so that you will acknowledge that I am the Lord, the one who calls you by name, the God of Israel. For the sake of my servant Jacob, for the sake of Israel my chosen one, I will call you by your name. I will give you an honored name, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. Except for me, there is no god. I will equip you even though you do not know me, so that people will know from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets that there is no one except me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. I am the one who forms light and creates darkness, the one who makes peace and creates disaster. I am the Lord, the one who does all these things.

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

Psalm tone*Refrain*

Sing to the LORD, praise his name;*
 proclaim his salvation day after day.
 Declare his glory among the nations,*
 his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
 Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;*
 tremble before him, all the earth.

Refrain

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;*
 let the sea resound, and all that is in it;
 let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.*
 Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;
 for he comes to judge the world in righteousness*
 and the peoples in his truth.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Refrain***SECOND LESSON****1 THESSALONIANS 1: 1 – 5A**

Paul and Silas had traveled through Thessalonica in his second missionary journey. The brothers facilitated a midnight escape to Berea, and despite Thessalonian opposition, God allowed his gospel message to be preached; Paul's work with them was not in vain. God reminds us that even in adversity, His Spirit accomplishes his work in the hearts of the elect.

Paul, Silas, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians, which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

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

We always give thanks to God for all of you as we make mention of you in our prayers, because we constantly remember before God our Father your work produced by

faith, your labor produced by love, and your patient endurance produced by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers, loved by God, we know that God has chosen you, because our gospel did not come to you with mere words, but with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I am the one who forms light and creates darkness, the one who makes peace and creates disaster. I am the Lord, the one who does all these things. Alleluia. (Philippians 4: 4)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

****Please Stand****

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 22: 15 – 21

Jesus was, too, familiar with the religious leaders' trickery to find a reason—even if fabricated—to convict him of a crime worthy of death. We see God's mercy and love in action, as Jesus focused on directing them to see their sins and repent. God does not give up even when through his divine wisdom, he knew they would reject him, and God never gives up on us when we are caught up in our sins.

Then the Pharisees went out and plotted together how to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are truthful and teach the way of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining anyone's approval because you are not swayed by appearances. So tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

But Jesus knew their evil purpose and said, "Why are you testing me, hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." They brought him a denarius. He asked them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"

“Caesar’s,” they replied to him.

Then he said to them, “Therefore give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



*****Please Be Seated*****

HYMN OF THE DAY

#125

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDEROUS CROSS

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,
On which the Prince of glo - ry died,
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
Sor - row and love flow min - gled down,
That were a trib - ute far too small;
My rich - est gain I count but loss,
All the vain things that charm me most,
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,
And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: HAMBURG (LM) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

SERMON TEXT

SERMON:

MATTHEW 22: 15 – 21

LIVING WITH DIVIDED CITIZENSHIP

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

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.

*****Please Be Seated*****

OFFERING

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*****Please Stand*****

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

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.

Please Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN:

#334

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!'.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n -
ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, abr.

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH (LM) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

CLOSING PRAYER

*****Please Stand*****

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

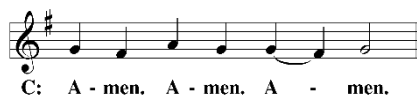
BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



*****Please Be Seated*****

What We Believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment, and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trifolds – They are in the back; we have plenty; please feel free to pass them out to your neighbors. You can take as many as you would like to pass out (leave them in a grocery cart or at your favorite restaurant.)

Sunday Morning Bible Study – we will resume our study of the Book of Acts on November 5. However, should you have questions regarding the reformation, please email them to Pastor Emmons before that Sunday so he can address them. Please feel free to come and go as you like; all reading is voluntary.

Midweek Bible Study – We will not have midweek this week due to pastor returning on Monday; however we will resume at 6:00 PM November 7; you may either come in person to the pastor's home: 4384 SW 36th ST, Redmond, or you can reach us via Zoom with the following ID and password.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Thanksgiving Eve/Advent Services – It is almost the close of the church year with the End Times celebration, which means a new church year and advent. Our Wednesday evening services begin with Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 PM on Wednesday, November 22. Our Advent services will begin on November 29 with a 6 PM soup supper; please contact Penny Port to sign up for a soup or dessert. We will have as many soup suppers as we have volunteers.

Thanksgiving Potluck - Save the date for our Annual Thanksgiving potluck to be held November 19 following service. Next week, we will have a sign-up for the meal, which is a little more orchestrated than our typical potluck.

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