

WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH

A people gladly serving the Lord Jesus and neighbors near and far

BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE, WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL, THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING, GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

We worship our Savior on March 2, 2025 (9 a.m.)

("Come as you are ... then go home different")

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PASTOR: W. Michael Langford

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Chris Peters (9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Thursdays)

BLESSING US WITH THEIR MUSIC....Linda Langford (organ), Chris Peters (piano)

MINISTERS: All of us! (We are all ministers of God's grace and we're on-duty '24/7')

**He was transfigured
before them and his clothes
became dazzling white.**

Mark 9.2-3



GATHERING SONG “Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”

(1) *What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought Since Jesus came into my heart;
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought, Since Jesus came into my heart.*

**(Refrain) Since Jesus came into my heart, Since Jesus came into my heart;
Floods of joy o’er my soul like the sea billows roll, Since Jesus came into my heart.**

(2) *I have ceased from my wand’ring and going astray, Since Jesus came into my heart;
And my sins which were many are all washed away, Since Jesus came into my heart.*

(Refrain)

(3) *I’m possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure, Since Jesus came into my heart;
And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure, Since Jesus came into my heart. (R)*

(4) *I shall go there to dwell in that City I know, Since Jesus came into my heart;
And I’m happy, so happy as onward I go, Since Jesus came into my heart. (Refrain)*

A WELCOME from our liturgists Missy Yost and Maddie

A CALL TO WORSHIP Psalms 44

We have heard with our own ears what God did for our forefathers in days long ago.

Through the Scriptures, we hear about the Lord who gave our ancestors a home.

By being the faithful God to our fathers, He has done great things for us as well.

By His gracious hand, He has also given today’s believers a living heritage.

We acknowledge that it was not by their sword that our fathers won the land

Victory was not achieved by the weapons of war or the strength of their arm

Rather, it was by the power of God’s right hand...and by the light of His face,

His love has always been with His people. We should love others, too.

He is our King and our God...Through Him we will push back our enemies even today.

As it was long ago, our strength will always rest in faith and our devotion to God.

In Him we will make our boast all day long. We will praise His name forever.

May His grateful people come and worship the Lord today. Praise His Holy Name!

OPENING HYMN (U.M. # 662) “Stand Up And Bless The Lord”

(1) *Stand up and bless the Lord, ye people of his choice;
Stand up and bless the Lord your God with heart and soul and voice.*

(2) *Though high above all praise, above all blessing high,
Who would not fear his holy name, and laud and magnify?*

(3) *O for the living flame from his own altar brought,
To touch our lips, our minds inspire, and wing to heaven our thought!*

(4) *God is our strength and song, and his salvation ours;
Then be his love in Christ proclaimed with all our ransomed powers.*

(5) *Stand up and bless the Lord; the Lord your God adore;
Stand up and bless his glorious name, henceforth forevermore.*

INVITATION OF GOD’S PRESENCE

Offer your own “GOD IS GOOD” greeting to those seated nearby!

PRAISE SONG “My Reward”

*(Verse) I want to hear You say the words to me “well done”...I want to hear You say “good and faithful servant”...I want to hear You say “I’ve prepared a place for you”
...Let all the treasures of this world...fade away*

**(Chorus) Jesus, You are my reward...to hear Your voice on that day is all I’m living for!
Jesus, You are my reward...To see Your face on that day is all I’m living for!**

(BRIDGE) *In the twinkling of an eye....we will all be changed
...We will meet You in the sky....we will see You face to face!*

BODY BUILDING Joys, Announcements and testimonies of God’s grace

PRAYER CONCERNS...We lift concerns or the names of those needing God’s touch

PRAYER SONG “Better Is One Day”

(1) *How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord, Almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You*

For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence, I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

**(CHORUS) Better is one day in Your courts, Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in your courts than thousands elsewhere (REPEAT)**

(2) *One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells. (REPEAT) (CHORUS)*

Better is one day, Better is one day, Better is one day than thousands elsewhere (repeat)

PRAYER

GOD’S HOLY WORD Mark 9:2-9

**“As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders
not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”**

TODAY’S MESSAGE Pastor Mike Langford

“In All His Glory”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

AN INVITATION, PRAYER of CONFESSION** and BLESSING of the ELEMENTS**

You do not need to be a member of this church or any church to receive Holy Communion.

**Thankful people who love God and neighbor, claiming Jesus Christ as Lord
and pledging to walk in His ways are invited to share in this act of devotion.**

We come forward in a continuous line of humble believers, praying for ourselves and others.

CLOSING HYMN (# 396) “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

- (1) O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou forever near me,
my Master and my friend. I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.
- (2) O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
- (3) O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will. O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.
- (4) O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be. And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

A BENEDICTION

We thank you for presenting your tithes and offerings in the plates found at the exits.

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This worship service is over. **NOW BEGINS** our Christian service in Jesus' Name!



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We are **not** on a “167-hour vacation from faith” after this worship ends. We show the grace daily!

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MINISTRY CHALLENGE Do something “Christian-nice” for someone. As you do, let them know that “Jesus loves you”. Most folks will come to understand that there’s a connection between our surprising good works and God’s awesome love in Christ!

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LAST WEEK ... We believe certain things about Jesus. But the measure of faith is NOT our “talk”...it’s in our “walk”! James asks a key Bible question: ‘What good is it my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?’ This seems to contradict New Testament truth that by faith alone (“sola fide”) comes our salvation. Martin Luther didn’t like James’ letter; he and Apostle Paul knew that we cannot earn or buy our salvation. But we understand that the message of James does not contradict Paul. James is really saying “faith that really is true Christian faith will naturally express itself in action and living out the gospel”. It doesn’t just think, believe, say or affirm. It ‘DOES’! If you are a believer in Jesus, your faith must be a do-something faith or it’s as good as dead. Such ‘faith’ is no good for our world, neighbors, church or any person in need. So, don’t just smile at people in need and say “I’m praying for you”. Let your love of Christ show in your giving witness. Your actions say more about your faith than your words do! May both faith and works be the oars which help ‘row your boat’! **HOW DO YOU DO** your faith? (James 2:14-26)