

THE FULLNESS OF HIS GRACE

Exploring the Depths of our God's Grace

“The Grace to Give Good Gifts”

September 5, 2021

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Heavenly Father, we praise you for your grace. With thankful joy we confess that every good and perfect gift comes from above. Through your Word and Spirit keep us looking to you in gratefulness and trust. As you have blessed us, so help us to be a blessing toward others and to live in a way that reflects your love. Amen.

✠ The Order of Service ✠

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OUR CONFESSION

M: Father, help us take a spiritual inventory of our lives. For the times we have allowed the troubles and difficulties of life to choke out our joy in you, we pray,

C: Please forgive us.

M: For the times we have acted and spoken harshly and hurt others, we pray,

C: Please forgive us.

M: For the times we have failed to stand firm against temptation, we pray,

C: Please forgive us.

M: For the times we have allowed anxiety and worry to consume us, we pray,

C: Please forgive us.

M: For the times we have been ungrateful or demanding of you, we pray,

C: Please forgive us.

M: For the times we have failed to treasure you and instead treasured the things of this world, we pray,

C: Please forgive us.

Silence to call to mind your sins.

GOD'S FORGIVENESS

M: God invites you to look away from yourself and to him. He lived for you and he died for you; therefore, your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. You are holy and righteous, blameless and pure, a child of God without fault, his precious saint.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

✠ The Word ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you."

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 7:31-37

³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "Be opened!"). ³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

EPISTLE LESSON: James 1:17-25

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

SERMON: James 1:17-25

“Instructions for Living as a Child of God”

NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER

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

M: 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.

C: Amen.