

Grace Alone
Liturgy and Sermon Series

CONFESSION

Creator God, we know how much you love us. You loved us enough to come to earth to be with us, live with us, cry with us. You loved us enough to go to the cross to break the power sin had over us so nothing could separate us from you. We know this, yet we will still fall short. We still give into our selfish desires and our ego to be better than others. We come before you burdened with sin. We are desperate for your forgiveness.

Good and loving God,

Forgive us when we close our ears to the stories of pain from others and our eyes to their needs.

Forgive us when we neglect our communities because we don't care or because we don't want to deal with it.

Forgive us when we expect you to fix things and forget we are your hands.

Forgive our sins.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

With his death, Jesus took away all the power of sin. Thus, we can confidently say our sins are forgiven. Find hope in this good news knowing we are free to go and be who God created us to be. **Amen.**

Or

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

We believe in God's grace which is the gift of God's unending love and forgiveness. In our baptisms we are given that gift and become members of God's family.

Holy God,

We can turn our backs on you, but you will never turn your back on us because we are members of your family. No matter how far we stray from you, you will always welcome us home. You will always love us. Remembering our baptism reassures us our sins are washed away so we can live the free and full lives you created us to live. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Week 1:

God of grace,

We like to think about receiving your grace, but it's difficult showing others that grace. We want to judge them. We want to point out all their flaws without having to be honest about our own.

When we are tempted to judge others, remind us of the unending love and mercy we have from you, so we can show that same love and mercy to others. Amen.

Week 2:

God of grace,

You have gifted us with your endless love and endless forgiveness. Our belief in your grace is part of our faith and it is because of our faith we strive not to sin. Help us to live as new creations in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Week 3:

God of grace,

You show us mercy and forgiveness when we sin, yet it's difficult for us to do the same to others when they wrong us. Send us people like Paul, who challenge us to see God's will and show others grace. Amen.

Week 4:

God of grace,

You give us opportunities every day to show others grace. Because of our busy-ness, our selfishness, and our preoccupation with other things, we miss those opportunities. Inspire us with moments of grace and open our eyes to moments where we can show others grace. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We are invited to stand in body or spirit for the Gospel Acclamation because we are going to read from scriptures where Jesus, the Messiah, spoke. We show our respect by standing and our commitment by speaking John 6:68-69, **“Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”**

Or

Since there is no Gospel reading this week, we will not stand or sing a Gospel Acclamation. All words in the Bible are special and important. However, the Gospels are the only books where Jesus speaks, so when reading the Gospel we stand and sing to honor Jesus and his teachings. Today, we are reading from the book of ..., chapter ... therefore, we sit and listen to God's holy word.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Opening:

So often when we pray, we pray for ourselves, which is good. We also need to remember to pray for others and so we offer our prayer for a world in need.

petitions for the week can be used, or can be adapted as needed.

Closing:

Gracious God, you are big enough to hear all prayers and so we trust you hear and answer our prayers, today. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

We share grace with one another by waving and saying, “I give you grace,” thus assuring each other our pledge to show God’s unending love and forgiveness to each other.

“I give you grace”

OFFERING PRAYER

After receiving your love and forgiveness and after receiving your holy word, we respond in offering to you, O God, ourselves, our time and our money. We may not always be able to give as we would like, but God, we give you what we can and most importantly we give you our very selves.

We pray together,

We give to you, O God, ourselves, our time and our money to support your church and your mission throughout the world. Be present with those who decide how to use these offerings, that they are used for your ways. Amen.

DIALOGUE

God has prepared a sacred meal for us.

We praise you, O God.

God invites us to this sacred meal; sinner and saint, wounded and healed, weak and strong.

We praise, O God.

PREFACE (based on Romans 1:16-17)

God, you give us food to strengthen us to do the things you need us to do. This meal is sacred because your holy presence is mysteriously infused in what we eat and drink at your table. These nourish us to do your work in our church, in our community and throughout the world. In response to this gift from you, we praise your name and sing...

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We continue to prepare ourselves to receive God’s holy meal by remembering all God has done for us through Jesus Christ. God’s grace did not start with the birth of Jesus. It was always present; since the beginning of all things. God’s grace was further revealed to us in Jesus Christ, helping us understand that there is nothing we need to do to earn God’s grace. Thus, we are freed

from sin to do the important work God puts before us. This meal will nourish, strengthen, and sustain us through the presence of Jesus, to do what we are called by God to do.

Now, we ask Jesus to consecrate or make this bread and cup holy with his presence. It is not magic. It is a great mystery that has been believed and practiced since the first time we participated in this meal with Jesus...

On the night in which he was betrayed...

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus Christ is the host of this meal and Jesus welcomes all people. It doesn't matter if you're Lutheran or a member of this church. All are welcome at Jesus' table, so come.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,

When we participate in this holy meal, we are connected to all who believe throughout the world. We are connected through faith, through your presence and through your mission to share your grace with all we meet. Amen.

BLESSING

In the name of God the Creator, Jesus the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our sustainer, we are sent out into a world that doesn't always show us grace, and so we respond by blessing others with God's unending love and mercy.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in grace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.