

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Grace Presbyterian Church welcomes all Christians who: profess faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel, to participate and to receive the Lord's Supper. If you are unable to receive the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to reflect on the following prayers. Regardless of whether you are able to receive the elements today, you are invited forward to be prayed for by the elders who will be stationed on either side at the front of the sanctuary.

### Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Blessed Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. I realize that no human mind could have conceived or invented the gospel. Impress the gospel on my soul as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is indeed true, please grant the virtue of the gospel to diffuse every faculty so that it may be heard, acknowledged, professed, and experienced. Help me to see the reality of who you are, and give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing which can lead me to the life that you promise. Amen.

Adapted from a Puritan prayer, Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*

### Prayer of Belief and Commitment

Most merciful Father, we render to you all praise, thanks, and glory, for that it had pleased you, of your great mercies, to grant unto us, miserable sinners, so excellent a gift and treasure, as to receive us into the fellowship and company of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom you have delivered to death for us, and have given him unto us as a necessary food and nourishment unto everlasting life. And now, we beseech you also, O Heavenly Father, to grant us this request, that you never suffer us to become so unkind as to forget so worthy benefits; but rather imprint and fasten them sure in our hearts, that we may grow and increase daily more and more in true faith, which continually is exercised in all manner of good works; and so much the rather, O Lord, confirm us in the confession of the same, to the advancement of thy glory, who art God over all things, blessed for ever. So be it. Amen.

### Church Staff and Contact Extensions

*The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until Noon.*

Randy Edwards, Pastor/Teacher • ext.11

Carla Collins, Accountant/Children's Ministry Coordinator/Preschool Director • ext.12

Deacon and Mercy Ministry Voicemail • ext.22

### Our Church Officers

**Session:** Wynn Baum, Don Bechtold, John DeBoer, Randy Edwards, Doug Jewell, Jim Plybon.

**Diaconate:** David Collins, Karl Freeman, Jim Dougherty.

## GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Grace Presbyterian Church exists to focus attention on God's grace as He transforms us into a community that delights in his worship, is marked by a selfless care for others, and proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ with gospel-transformed words, relationships, vocations, and lifestyles, resulting in the transformation of the communities of the Triad and the world.*

## HOLY THURSDAY

**APRIL 9, 2009**

### For Reflection

Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside of Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell.

C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

## CELEBRATE JESUS CHRIST'S RESURRECTION WITH US

**Good Friday or *Tenebrae*,** Friday, April 10 at 7:30 pm.

**Grace Kids Easter Egg Hunt,** Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 am.

**Resurrection Sunday,** April 12, 10:30 am.

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sundown on **Holy Thursday** begins the *Triduum* (tree do 'em) or "three days." Holy Thursday is oftentimes referred to as *Maundy* which is taken from the Latin: *mandatum* or "commandment". After washing his disciples' feet and instituting the Lord's Supper, Jesus told his disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). On Holy Thursday, we gather and recount Jesus' last words to his disciples and celebrate the Lord's Supper. Holy Thursday concludes with recalling the betrayal of Judas Iscariot.

**Good Friday** or *Tenebrae* (which is Latin for "shadows") recounts the last words of Jesus Christ which are represented by the seven candles. During the Good Friday service as each word is read, a candle is extinguished to represent the darkness which covered the earth at Jesus' crucifixion. In the same way, the service concludes after sunset.

**Resurrection** (or Easter) **Sunday** remembers the truth that the tomb was empty because the Lord Jesus had conquered death by rising from the dead. Jesus' resurrection confirms for us that he is the Son of God, that he accomplished the work of saving his own, and that we too share in the hope of the resurrection and the promise of new life by our faith in him.

Regarding childcare, as usual, childcare is provided during our Sunday worship service. However, childcare is not provided for Holy Thursday or Good Friday service. Both Thursday's and Friday's services are quiet and more somber in their mood. Because of this somber mood, it may feel like too much of a challenge for parents to monitor young children. I want to encourage you to try it out. It has been my experience, that children pick up on the unfamiliar feel of the service and respond surprisingly well. How will they learn unless given opportunity? Not only is this a worship experience, but it is a teaching opportunity.

## CORPORATE WORSHIP

### Welcome

**Call to Worship:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

*Father, Long Before Creation*

**Sermon:** "The First Mary: Mary of Bethany"

John 12:1-8

**Lighting the First Candle:** Preparation of the Table

Scripture Reading Matthew 26:17-19

**Lighting the Second Candle:** The Institution

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:20-29

### The Apostle's 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, and born of the virgin Mary. He 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. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Mighty to Save*

**Lighting the Third Candle:** Washing the Disciple's Feet

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-12

**Lighting the Fourth Candle:** Love One Another

Scripture Reading: John 13:33-35

**Lighting the Fifth Candle:** In My Father's House

Scripture Reading: John 14:1-11

**Lighting the Sixth Candle:** If You Love Me...

Scripture Reading John 14:15-18

*My Jesus I Love Thee*

**Lighting of the Seventh Candle:** The Promised Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: John 14:25-31

### Pastoral Prayer and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

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.

**Lighting of the Eighth Candle:** The Vine and the Mandate

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-17

**Lighting of the Ninth Candle:** The Garden

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:31-46

**Lighting of the Tenth Candle:** The Betrayal

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:31-46

*There is no dismissal.*

*After this reading, the congregation quietly leaves the sanctuary.*