



188 E. Cooper Avenue, Crescent City, CA 95531
Marty Tyler, Pastor
Office: 707.464.4712 | GraceLutheranCC.com

Again he spoke to [the Lord]

Genesis 18:29



Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

27 July 2025, 10:15 am

PRAY EARLY AND OFTEN

AS WE GATHER

God's Word instructs us to stay connected to Christ. We experience that connection as we gather to hear God's Word, dine at our Lord's Table, and pray persistent, bold prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, communities, and world. Today we hear Abraham pleading with God on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah. We hear Jesus teaching His disciples to pray. Jesus then illustrates the power of bold, persistent prayer and affirms the goodness of the One who hears our prayers. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time" (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONGS

Ancient of Days

Gary Sadler, Jamie Harvill

Verse

*Blessing and honor glory and power
Be unto the Ancient of Days
From ev'ry nation all of creation
Bow before the Ancient of Days*

Chorus

*Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth
Shall declare Your glory
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne
In worship
You will be exalted O God
And Your kingdom shall not pass away
O Ancient of Days*

Bridge

*Your kingdom shall reign
Over all the earth*

*Sing unto the Ancient of Days
For none can compare
To Your matchless worth
Sing unto the Ancient of Days*

FINAL CHORUS

© 1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

As High As the Heavens

Don Harris and Martin J. Nystrom

Chorus

*As high as the heavens
Are above the earth
So great is the Father's love
As far as the east is from the west
So far has He taken our sin from us*

Verse

*For His anger lasts only a moment
But His favor lasts for a lifetime
Weeping may remain for a night
But rejoicing comes it comes in the morning*

© 1993 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 50:1, 3–5, 14–15; John 15:7, 16; Romans 12:12; 1 Thess. 5:17–18*

P Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

C **The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.**

P Jesus says, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

C **He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people.**

P The apostle Paul writes, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

C **God says, “Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!”**

- P** Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.”
- C** **“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”**
- P** Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Most merciful God,
- C** **we call upon You because we are troubled by our sins—our sinful thoughts, words, and actions. We are equally troubled by those times when we have failed to act or speak up. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who delivered us through His perfect life, death, and resurrection so that we may glorify You with our lives.**
- P** Our God hears our prayers for mercy and graciously forgives our sins. By Christ’s authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace.
- C** **Amen.**

SONG OF CONFESSION

Knowing You

Graham Kendrick

Verse 1

*All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this*

Chorus

*Knowing You Jesus knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord love You Lord*

Verse 2

*Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness*

Verse 3

*Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your grace and mercy have strengthened Your people throughout the ages and emboldened them to come before You in all circumstances. Strengthen our faith and confidence so that we come to You boldly, consistently, and persistently; through Jesus Christ with whom You rule and reign with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Genesis 18:17-33*

René Hutzell

¹⁷The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” ²⁰Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the

whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”
²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³²Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” ³³And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

After the reading:

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 138; antiphon: v. 3

C On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased.

L I give You thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing Your praise; I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word.

C On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased.

L All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of Your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

C For though the Lord is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar.

L Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me.

C The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

L On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased.

EPISTLE READING: Colossians 2:6-19 “Alive In Christ”

Erika Wilson

After the reading:

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Please stand in honor the Gospel.

Verse

Luke 11:9

P Alleluia.

C I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

P Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ²And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

⁵And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything?’ ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.

⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN REMAIN IN THE SERVICE THIS WEEK

MESSAGE: Elder David Wilson

"Jesus Calls Us to Pray"

Luke 11:1-13

SERMON NOTES

Luke 11:1-13 Jesus Calls Us to Pray

Main Point: Jesus calls us to _____ with
_____.

Law: We often live our lives _____ the _____,
_____ and _____ that comes from _____.

Gospel: God gives not good – but _____ – especially
the _____ which _____ us to _____.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

APOSTLES' CREED

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

Following the Creed, people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you." as a sign of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1B3).

Then return to their places. Please remain standing.

THANKFUL GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

FOR THOSE WHO ARE VISITING, the giving of tithes and offerings is intended for our members, as both a response to God's blessings and in support of our ministries here at Grace. As our guests, you should not feel compelled to donate, except as you are moved by the Holy Spirit. We do ask, however, that you please complete a "Welcome" card and give it to the pastor or place it in the grey box marked "I BRING AN OFFERING TO THE LORD" sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary, in order that we would have a record of your having attended and your contact information should you desire a visit from the pastor or are in need of prayer.

OFFERTORY SONG

Thank You Lord

Bob Cochran

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with,

"Lord, in Your mercy..."

The congregation is invited to make the petition their own by responding,

"Hear our prayer".

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.

BENEDICTION

P May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

C Amen.

DEPARTING SONG

Let Us Pray

Steven Curtis Chapman

Verse 1

*I hear you say your heart is aching
You've got trouble in the making
And you ask if I'll be praying for you please
And in keeping with convention
I'll say yes with good intentions
To pray later making mention of your needs
But since we have this moment here at heaven's door
We should start knocking now what are we waiting for*

Chorus 1

*Let us pray let us pray ev'rywhere in ev'ry way
Ev'ry moment of the day it is the right time
For the Father above He is listening with love
And He wants to answer us so let us pray*

Verse 2

*So when we feel the Spirit moving
Prompting prodding and behooving
There is no time to be losing let us pray
Let the Father hear us saying
What we need to be conveying
Even while this song is playing let us pray
And just because we say the word amen
It doesn't mean this conversation needs to end*

Chorus 2

*Let us pray let us pray ev'rywhere in ev'ry way
Ev'ry moment of the day it is the right time
Let us pray without end
And when we finish start again
Like breathing out and breathing in oh let us pray*

Bridge

*Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence
As our prayers draw us near to the One
Who knows our needs
Before we even call His name*

Chorus 3

*Let us pray let us pray ev'rywhere in ev'ry way
Ev'ry moment of the day it is the right time
For the Father above He is listening with love
And He wants to answer us oh let us pray
Let us pray ev'rywhere in ev'ry way
Ev'ry moment of the day it is the right time
And let us pray without end
And when we finish start again
Like breathing out and breathing in whoa let us pray
Oh let us pray yeah let us pray oh let us pray yeah*

Ending

*Pray this way our Father which art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name thy kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Let us pray let us pray
Let us pray oh let us pray yeah
Let us pray let us pray
Let us pray oh let us pray yeah*

*Thanks for Joining Us for Worship Today!
Please stay and enjoy some refreshments and conversation
in the Grace Fellowship Hall*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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About the Cover

Abraham boldly pleaded before God on behalf of Sodom. This boldness came from knowing who the Lord had revealed Himself to be. We know who the Lord is in the mercy of Christ Jesus. Christ interceded for us by shedding His blood on the cross. Therefore, we know that we can "with confidence draw near to the throne of grace" (Hebrews 4:16) and that He indeed listens to our prayers.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading:

Genesis 18:20–33

²⁰Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

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Epistle: Colossians 2:6–15

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in

him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:1–13

¹Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ²And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴ and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone
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And lead us not into temptation."

⁵And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"