



GRACE
mercy
PEACE



Lutheran Women in Mission
PRAYER SERVICE 2024

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GRACE, MERCY, PEACE

2024 PRAYER SERVICE

By Rev. Michael Mattil

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Timothy 1:2b; 2 Timothy 1:2).

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love (2 John 1:3).

At some point you have probably heard a pastor say something similar to these verses at the beginning of a sermon. Paul wrote this in his greetings at the beginning of both of his letters to Timothy, and John used it in his second epistle.

This service is designed around those three words, those three gifts that come to us from our gracious Father and our Savior: Grace, Mercy, and Peace.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

L We are gathered together in the name of the one true God.

We know He is the Author of Creation.

We come here in the confidence that we have been saved by our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are here assured that the Spirit of God has brought us to faith and keeps us in that one true faith.

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love (2 John 1:3).

Hymn/Song of Confession

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus” (LSB 606)

“Hide Me In Your Holiness” by Steve Ragsdale

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” (LSB 611)

- L** Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.
- C** **Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to You and to one another that we have sinned both in our actions and in our failure to act.**

(Silence for individual prayer and confession)

- L** Merciful Father, give us pardon and peace and free us from our sin for the sake of Christ, our Savior.
- C** **Amen.**
- L** You are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ our Lord. So let us be reconciled to one another and share the peace of our Lord with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

(Share God's peace with one another)

GRACE

Hymn/Song

"By Grace I'm Saved" (LSB 566)

"Grace Alone" by Scott Wesley Brown

"Your Grace is Enough" by Chris Tomlin

"Blessed Are the Sons of God" (TLH 391)

"Grace! 'Tis a Charming Sound" (TLH 374)

Matthew 20:1–16

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

Thoughts on Grace

Prayer for Grace

- ☐ Almighty God, You have given us so much in our lives. Your abundant grace has given us salvation and newness of life. May that grace continue to bless us so that we may use these gifts You have bestowed on us to Your honor and glory.

(Silent prayer)

Give us hearts that are grateful for the grace You have shown us in our lives. Amen.

MERCY

Hymn/Song

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us” (LSB 915)

“Thy Mercy” by Caedmon’s Call

“When All Thy Mercies, O My God” (TLH 31)

Matthew 18:21–35

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Thoughts on Mercy

Prayer for Mercy

L Lord, even though our sins deserve Your condemnation, Your mercy has given us pardon, Your compassion has given us restoration. Without Your mercy we would not be able to stand before You, but for Jesus' sake You have accepted us. It is in His name that we acknowledge Your overflowing, loving kindness and offer You our praise again this day.

(Silent prayer)

Give us hearts that are grateful for the mercy You have shown us in our lives. Amen.

PEACE

Hymn/Song

“When Peace, like a River” (*LSB* 763)

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (*LSB* 770)

“Through Jesus’ Blood and Merit” (*TLH* 372)

Romans 5:1–11

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Thoughts on Peace

Prayer for Peace

- ☐ Everything good and just and holy comes from You, Almighty God, including the peace that the world cannot give us. May the knowledge of the peace You have given encourage us to live lives in keeping with Your commandments. Send Your Spirit to empower us to be instruments of Your peace where we live.

(Silent prayer)

Give us hearts that are grateful for the peace You have given us in our lives. Amen.

Benediction

- ☐ *Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord*
(1 Timothy 1:2b; 2 Timothy 1:2).
- ☐ Amen.

Closing Song

“In Christ Alone” by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” (LSB 556)

“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” (LSB 819)

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (LSB 922)