

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills  
MONDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL SERIES



*GRACE IS GREATER THAN YOUR HURTS*

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**Grace Is More Freeing than Your Bitterness**

**July 17, 2023**

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**THE SENTENCES**

Here at day's end we seek You, O King of Earth and Heaven.

**You have been our sustenance across the sunlit hours.**

Be now our Counselor, Comforter, and Protector in the dark of night.

**Amen.**

We now give thanks to God for the blessings of the day that has passed.

**We praise You, O Father, for the provision of food, and shelter, and fellowship, and for all other evidences of grace that have been ours. May our hearts always receive such gifts from Your hand, with true humility and thankfulness.**

**Amen.**

Now let us ready our hearts to make confession for the imperfections of our love this day.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Holy Spirit, grant us a true conviction leading to a true repentance.

**Indeed it was our desire to serve You well in this day, O God, but we have again fallen short of Your righteousness in our thoughts, our intentions, our actions, and our utterances. We have responded at times without grace. We have chosen sometimes that which is unprofitable and which leads neither to our own flourishing nor to the proclamation of Your glory. Forgive us, O God, for those things both known and unknown. Forgive us for the harms we have done this day, and for the goods we might have done but failed to do; forgive us also for the constant condition of our hearts, for the self-serving impulses, inclinations, and desires which stand us every moment in need of a savior.**

O children of God, hear these words: All of these sins you have lifted up before Him, He has eternally forgiven through His Son. They are cast as far as the east is from the west. You are free to love and to serve Him in joyful assurance, knowing that His grace will always be more sufficient to your own weaknesses. Thanks be to Christ for this glorious gift!

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

We thank you, O Lord, that You are attentive to the cries of Your children. Deepen now our knowledge of You, and our love for Your truth.

**Tender our hearts to receive Your words. Amen.**

**READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

First Reading.....Ephesians 4:12-16  
Second Reading..... Ephesians 4:25-32  
Third Reading.....Acts 7:54-60

**RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD**

*“By Grace I’m Saved” (spoken responsively)*

By grace to timid hearts that tremble,  
**In tribulation’s furnace tried,**

By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,  
**The Father’s heart is open wide.**

Where could I help and strength secure  
**If grace were not my anchor sure?**

**SERMON**

*“Grace Is More Freeing than Your Bitterness”*  
Vicar Andrew Frerichs

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**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.**

**LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER**

**I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ,  
Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this  
day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins  
where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this  
night; for into Your hands, I commend myself, my body  
and soul, and all things; let your holy angel be with me,  
that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

*(If desired, please stay for Holy Communion)*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**