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Sermon Series

People worship today and have worshipped for thousands of years in different ways. Which way is right? What does the Bible say about worship? What parameters do we need to put around our praise?

In this series, we will dive into the essentials of Christian, and specifically Lutheran, worship. Each week we will take a different portion of the liturgy to break down these fundamental questions we have. This series will aim to transcend worship solely from a liturgical viewpoint. What the liturgy does is teach us God's desire for our worship and gives us a framework for our praise and thanksgiving.

Week 1 – August 6, 2023: *Invocation, Confession and Absolution*

Jesus comes preaching that the kingdom of God begins with repentance. In worship, we begin with the invocation, and then open with an acknowledgment of the nature of the relationship between God and us. When we hear God's words of absolution spoken over us, we see the miracle of the work of God in our lives; that God erases that distance between Him and us.

Week 2 – August 13, 2023: *Readings and Creeds*

In the readings, we take time to come together and hear the word of God for us that day – what is God teaching his church today? The church creeds were written and accepted to be proper and correct statements of the Christian faith, in line with the teachings of Scripture throughout history.

Week 3 – August 20, 2023: *Message, Hymns, Songs of Praise*

Hymns, songs and messages had been a part of Christian practice since the days of the book of Genesis. The message that we teach in songs and in preaching is the beautiful message we hear in John 3:16 – that God so loved us that he sent Jesus on our behalf. We continue to teach and sing so that more people may come to know Jesus.

Week 4 – August 27, 2023: *The Sacraments*

The promises of God are verbal, but they are also tangible. Christian baptism was instituted by Jesus in Matthew 28. Communion is a participation in the sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of all of our sins. We near the end of Christian worship in a position of humility and receptivity – receiving the humble, selfless, perfect service of the Lord to us, that we may be right with Him.

Week 5- September 3, 2023: *Prayer, Lord's Prayer and Benediction*

In Mathew 6:19 Jesus says, "This then is how you should pray: "Our Father...". Prayer is a path to healing (James 5:13-16); and incense to God (Rev. 5:8); a constant calling (1 Thes. 1:2); and a great honor to approach his throne (Heb.4:16). A benediction is nothing more than an announcement of favor and protection; the final way we cling to His promise.

Please join us for this Five Part series beginning in August!

Pastor Doug Widger



FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Studies

10:45-11:45 AM

Babies/Toddlers: Nursery
Preschool 3's/Kinder & Grades 1-6:
Preschool wing classrooms
Grades 7-12: Youth Shed
Biblical Parenting: Library



August 19, 10:30 AM—3 PM

Hey FAMILIES! Let's squeeze some last minute SUMMER in!

Tickets are \$10 per person. You will need extra \$ for food and drinks. Water is allowed in the park. Food coolers can be brought in for \$20, or you can go out to your car.

Please RSVP to Serena by August 11.

Back to School Blessing

A service of blessing will be held Sunday, August 6th at 1:00 pm. Thank you for the donations and prayers as we get ready to welcome, serve, worship and pray with our community before kids go back to school!

You can help by:

- Helping us do some shopping the afternoon of July 31st.
- Bagging supplies Wednesday, August 2nd 6 pm - 7 pm in the Gym.
- Attending the event to meet, greet and support our neighbors.
- Serving at the reception after the service.
- Continue praying for this event.

For volunteering or any other questions, please e-mail Deaconess Alma Zamora at azamora@grace.lc.

RECESS JR. HIGH RETREAT

Camp Copass, Denton

SAVE THE DATE!

Hosted by Ministers in North Texas

GRADES 6-8

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2023

Save the Date:
Children & Teacher Blessing
August 13th during our worship service

MANY THANKS, GRACE FAMILY! Your prayers and monetary support allowed our youth to travel to a new area of the USA, where they made new friends and served several residents of Bayou La Batre, AL, through lawn care, cleaning up the local library, beautifying a historic site (Bellgrath Gardens) and sorting donated food at the area Food Bank. Much fun was had traveling about the town learning about its history, visiting the aquarium, riding the ferry and visiting the Fort Morgan Beach at Gulf Shores. Our youth grew in service to others and in their faith. Please continue to keep our youth in prayer, as the school year is upon them!



Groups Updates

Information on all of our groups can be found anytime at grace.lc/get-connected

graceSeniors

Grace Seniors— Save the date for Sept. 14 at 12 pm, when we gather again to eat, meet, and kick off a new programming year! Bring **picnic-type foods** to share! Ice cream will be served!



Music Ministry

We're very excited to get bells and choir going again! We will rehearse on Wednesday evenings, with Bells at 6:30 pm and Choir at 7:30 pm. Here is the planned rehearsal schedule for the next year:

FALL 2023 Season:

First Rehearsal 8/23/2023

Last rehearsal 12/20/2023

- * no rehearsal the week of Thanksgiving (11/22/2023)

SPRING 2024 Season:

First Rehearsal 1/17/2024

Last rehearsal 4/24/2024

- * no rehearsal on Ash Wednesday/ Valentines Day (2/14/2024)
- * no rehearsal the week after Easter (4/3/2024)

Come join us as we make music to the Lord, and contact Will at wland@grace.lc if you have any questions about getting involved!



Life Groups

Fall Life Groups are in the works, starting on September 10th! All groups will receive a 7-week study on being 'Gifted,' and will meet on Sundays at 10:45 am.

The series will include a take-home personal study, reinforced by the messages on Sundays, as well as discussion time in your Life Groups. Sign-ups begin on August 6th! Read more about what we will process together below.

In this series we will explore how we are each "Gifted" by God in many ways. Each week we will anchor in a Bible passage and then expand out from that single passage to some related passages which help us explore a certain area of our giftedness from the Almighty creator. Over the course of seven weeks, we will begin to understand, believe, remember, and do ministry because of these gifts.

I pray God will bless you richly because of this study! You, people of Grace Lutheran Church, are indeed GIFTED people.

Sincerely,

Pastor Doug Widger



EMBRACE *Grace*
SUPPORT GROUPS



Support groups for young single moms and dads are now forming. Is this a ministry you feel called to help with? Please let Nancy Grieser, Gary White or [Serena Pace](#) know if you would like to help. There are many ways to serve in this ministry.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Donate a gift for the baby shower (item or monetary)
- Assist with the baby shower
- Assist with the Embrace Legacy Night Out event
- Be a prayer warrior!
- Bring a meal or snacks to the group one night.
- Use a Thrivent Action Team card.

Loving Liberia Update

Loving Liberia wishes to thank all who helped remove the playground equipment from Grace Preschool Playground: Joyce Pinnow, Monte Filler, William Richmond, Alan Meyer, Perry Smith, Brian Bassett, Jimmy Hankins, Joe Masterson, Joe Elmers, Stan Taber and Pastor Hildebrandt.

We also thank Nancy Helm for providing the much-needed donuts that helped during our break time. The Lord blessed us with a cloudy day and the removal of the playground equipment was a learning process for all.

The playground equipment was picked up by the shipper and will be loaded into a container in late July. Also, we are shipping all computers, air conditioners, Thrivent t-shirts, and other school supplies.

The school year for 257 children ends on July 30 and we have been blessed to share Jesus with the students and also see them educated to become successful when they graduate. We always appreciate your prayers and financial support for loving the Liberian children. Blessings to all and may we all grow in our faith.

Pastor Hildebrandt

Explore Grace - August 19th

Do you know anyone who may be interested in joining our family of faith? Consider reaching out and inviting them to our next Explore Grace Seminar on Saturday, August 19th from 9 am - noon! You can also [let us know](#) and we can get them some information directly.

ESL Ministry

Classes begin Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 - 8 pm, meeting weekly through mid-May. We follow the Arlington ISD Calendar for Holidays. Childcare is provided.

The ESL program has created the opportunity for mission outreach. Are you interested in serving? Knowing the Spanish language is not necessary to help with this ministry. You can serve in the following ways:

- Serve or provide snacks - Wednesdays 7:05 - 7:45 pm
- Serve as a Teachers' Aid or Substitute for our three class levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced classes)
- Greet
- Childcare Substitute

Material and guidance will be provided. You can serve for a short time in some roles, or throughout the year.

Please let us know if you feel the call to help serve in our effort to reach our Hispanic Community and beyond! Send an e-mail to Pastor Juan at jzamora@grace.lc or Deaconess Alma at azamora@grace.lc.



Spanish Corner

¿Cómo te llamas?	What is your name?
¿Qué hora tienes?	What time is it?
¿De dónde viene?	Where are you from?
¿Dónde vives?	Where do you live?
¿Puede ayudarme?	Can you help me?
¿Podría ayudarle?	Can I help you?
¿Cuánto cuesta eso?	How much does it cost?
¿Entiende?	Do you understand?



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/2 Sid & Jo Cook
- 8/3 DelRay & Cathy Alberts
- 8/3 Ron & Karen Carter
- 8/6 Tommy & Delores Smith
- 8/10 Joe & Joanne Elmers
- 8/13 Sidney & Sonya Sorensen
- 8/14 John & Tracey Rukavina
- 8/14 Keith & Lyn Mangels
- 8/17 Troy & Cassie Baumann
- 8/22 Jordan & Laura Hart

Did you know that the church calendar is available ONLINE? [CLICK HERE go.grace.lc/calendar](http://go.grace.lc/calendar) to access it. Any calendar changes made in the church office are updated in real time!

- 8/1 Ashley Stock
- 8/2 Mary Shelton
- 8/5 Mike Kennedy
- 8/5 Jim Runzheimer
- 8/7 Charlotte Walker
- 8/8 Robert Gergens
- 8/9 Christina Estell
- 8/9 Mark Lauer
- 8/10 Hannah Chavez
- 8/10 Joanne Elmers
- 8/11 Orena Hohertz
- 8/11 Joe Sparks
- 8/12 Dorothy Kennedy
- 8/12 Martin Schlotte
- 8/13 Cassie Baumann
- 8/13 Donald Crow
- 8/16 Lila McDermed
- 8/16 Denise Shaw
- 8/17 Chris Christopher
- 8/20 Doug Brutlag
- 8/20 Rilla Terry
- 8/20 Shannon Edgar
- 8/23 Doris Davies
- 8/23 Richard Del Cristo, Jr.
- 8/23 Tommy Ott
- 8/23 Lucille Schlotte
- 8/23 Marcus Wagner
- 8/25 Cynthia Cunningham
- 8/26 Ernie Owens
- 8/26 Tom Wagoner
- 8/27 Darlene Topping
- 8/29 Ron Carter

Your Elders Are Here for You

If there is any way we can assist you with any spiritual needs or physical concerns, do not hesitate to contact your elder. If you need their contact information, please request it by calling the church at 817-274-1626 or email: jdelcristo@grace.lc.

New to Grace? Reference the adjacent list. If your last name begins with "S," for example, Joe Masterson would be your assigned elder.

Joseph C. Masterson

ELDERS & THEIR ASSIGNED MEMBERS

Ernie Owens	A-B
Hank Jacobs	C-E
David Swille	F-H
Mike Kennedy	I-L
Mike Curtis	M-O
Ernie Owens	P-R
Joe Masterson	S
Jim Schmidt	T-Z
Head Elder: Joe Masterson	

Thy Will be Done

Placing ourselves completely into God's hands can be challenging. If you need help in that area, pray these words from Thomas à Kempis: "Lord, you know what is best. May your will decide what shall be done. Give what you will, how much you will and when you will. Do what you know is best for me. Do what pleases you and brings your name most honor.

"Put me where you will, and deal with me in all things as you please. I am in your hand — turn me backwards and forwards, turn me upside down. Here I am, your servant, ready for anything, for I have no desire to live for myself but only to live perfectly and worthily for you."



Call 817.274.1626 or email churchoffice@grace.lc to:

- ◇ Receive a copy of *Portals of Prayer* mailed to your home.
- ◇ Be added to the group email list that receives prayer requests.
- ◇ Submit an updated address and/or contact information.
- ◇ Receive a current Church Directory as an active Grace member.
- ◇ Submit and/or update a prayer request.



Grace and Our Redeemer present

MINDFUL FAITH WORKSHOP

Living well in body, mind, and soul in a hurting world.

WITH REV. DR. BRUCE HARTUNG

SEP 8, 6PM-8PM (GRACE)
SEP 9, 11AM-3PM (ORLC)

INFO & REGISTRATION
ORLC.ORG/MINDFUL



Organist to play through entire LSB

Organist Benjamin Kolodziej, a member of Faith, Plano, will play through all 635 hymns in *Lutheran Service Book* beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12, at Trinity (Downtown) Lutheran Church, Houston.

He will play an introduction and one stanza of each hymn, anticipating that the event will last until at least 7 p.m.

The church will be open throughout the day for anyone to drop in. The performance will also be livestreamed on Trinity's [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#). More information will be available at trinitydt.org.



Soccer Camp - Thank you!

THANK YOU, Grace family, for your prayers and support! Please continue your prayers as we continue to serve and share the good news of Christ through our outreach ministry opportunities.

