

August 11, 2019

The Lord's Supper: Participation in Christ

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

A sacrament is a sign of participation in saving grace. It marks not simply the presence and work of God, but his application of salvation to sinners.

Edmund Clowney
Presbyterian pastor and theologian

Christ is the Alpha and Omega of the Lord's Supper; it is all Christ and Him crucified. [This] gives a peculiar sweetness to the broken bread and poured-out wine.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne
19th century Scottish Presbyterian pastor

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1 Corinthians 5:7

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Matthew 26:26–28

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:29

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh...Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."

John 6:51, 54–56

What the believer feeds upon, then, is not Christ's body as such but the redemptive benefits that he offers through his saving death.

Richard Phillips
Presbyterian pastor

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

People: **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.**

1 Chronicles 16

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth;

People: **Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"**

We sing to the Lord and ascribe to him glory and strength

"Glorious and Mighty"

1. Maj-es-ty, your glo-ry is shin-ing bright-er than the
2. Maj-es-ty, you fash-ioned the heav-ens, your de-crees can
3. Maj-es-ty, we'll sing with cre-a-tion when you come a-

4 moon and the stars. Mar-vel-ling, we ho-nor and fear you a-
nev-er be changed. O-ver all the plans of the na-tions your
gain in the clouds. Ev-'ry knee will bow down and wor-ship the

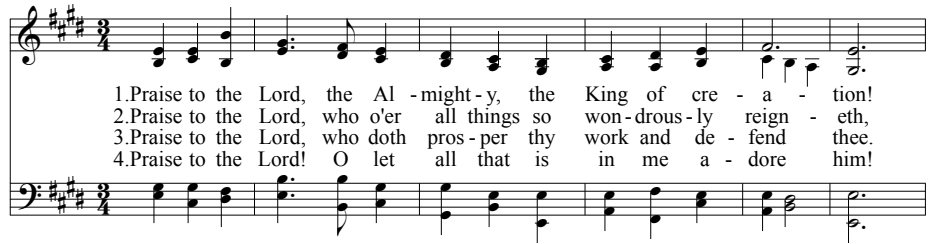
7 bove all gods. Glo-ri-ous and might-y, you're awe-some in beau-ty;
judg-ments reign.
one true God.

13 joy-ful songs we raise. Glo-ri-ous and might-y, you're awe-some in

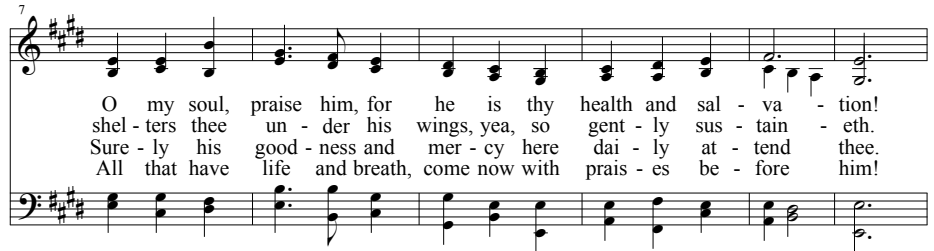
19 beau-ty, great-ly to be praised!

It is the joy of God's people to sing praises to him. There is none like him and one day his glory will be clearly seen and all people will come and worship him, acknowledging that he alone is God. Our worship this morning is a taste of that day.

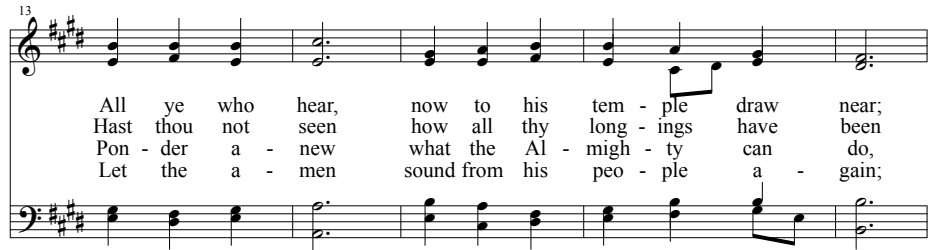
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"



1.Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2.Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
 3.Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee.
 4.Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion!
 shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth.
 Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
 All that have life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen how all thy long - ings have been do,
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - migh - ty can
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain;



praise him in glad ad - or - a - tion.
 grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 if with his love he be - friend thee.
 glad - ly, for, aye, we a - dore him.

Bless the LORD, O
 my soul, and all
 that is within me,
 bless his holy
 name! Bless the
 LORD, O my soul,
 and forget not all
 his benefits.

Psalms 103

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

We hear as God declares our sin and calls us to return to him

You did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices... You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities..."Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Isaiah 43
Joel 2

We return to God for his grace and mercy, confessing that we have burdened him with our sins

Heavenly Father, gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name
and what our hearts can no longer bear.
Trouble us with the greatness of your call
And with our slowness to obey.
Trouble us with the greatness of your steadfast love, O God;
And with the loss of our first love, our fervent love for you.
Trouble us with the struggles of your church;
Trouble us, O Lord, and grant us faith in the midst of our struggles.

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed
and you have given us an interest in his blood,
union with him in his death that we might live.
By your Spirit at work in us, may we live in his death
fleeing from ourselves, turning from our sin, to him and him alone,
staking our whole eternity upon his death.
We ask this by the wonder of your grace, of Christ given for us.
Amen.

Confession of sin happens within the context of relationship, both with God and each other. We confess together, in community, before a gracious God who has given us himself. Confession both acknowledges our need for grace and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

God declares our hope: that Christ died for us

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time...Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ... knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

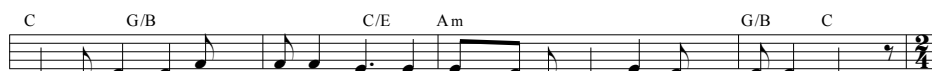
1 Peter 1

God shows his
love for us in that
while we were still
sinners, Christ
died for us.
Romans 5

We rejoice that Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away our sin “And Can It Be”



1. And can it be that I should gain an in - trest in the Sav - ior's blood? Died
2. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove, so free, so in - fin - ite his grace! Hum -
3. Long my im - pris - oned spi - rit lay, fast bound in sin and na - ture's night; thine
4. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and all in him, is mine! A -



he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pur - sued?
bled him - self, so great his love, and bled for A - dam's help - less race.
eye dif - fused a quick - 'ning ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with light.
live in him, my liv - ing Head, and clothed in right - eous - ness di - vine.



A - ma - zing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die
'Tis mer - cy all, im - mense and free, for, O my God, it found
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and fol -
Bold I ap - proach the e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ,



for me? A - ma - zing love! How can it be, that thou, my God, should die for me? A -
out me.
- loved thee.
my own.



ma - zing love! How can it be, that thou, my God should die for me?

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42

¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

The Lord's Supper: Participation in Christ

The Church that God Built

In Matthew 4 Jesus quotes Scripture saying, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." So we come to the word of God each week, finding in it the nourishment that feeds our souls.

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

Godly souls can
gather great
assurance and
delight from this
Sacrament; in it
they have a
witness of our
growth into one
body with Christ
such that whatever
is his may be
called ours.
John Calvin

We participate in the death of Jesus Christ having communion with him, and through him each other, in the Lord's Supper

We celebrate God's free grace to us in Jesus Christ by observing the Lord's Supper each Sunday. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized followers of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to one of the elders after the service. Wine and bread are the elements of the supper as instituted by Jesus Christ and so we follow his example.

"Here is Love"



1. Here is love, vast as the o - cean, lov - ing kind - ness as the
2. On the mount of cru - ci - fix - ion, foun - tains o - pened deep and
3. Bond and pledge of sweet com - mun - ion, all Christ's be - ne - fits di -



4 flood, when the Prince of life, our ran - som, shed for us his pre - cious blood. Who his
wide; through the flood - gates of God's mer - cy flowed a vast and gra - cious tide. Grace and
vine, here, ye saints, is of - fered free - ly in the bread and in the wine. Here is



9 love will not re - mem - ber? Who can cease to sing his praise? He will
love, like migh - ty riv - ers, poured in - ces - sant from a - bove; heav - en's
love, dis - played in splen - dor, bo - dy bro - ken, blood out - poured; signs and

1, 2



13 ne - ver be for - got - ten through - out heav'n's e - ter - nal days.
peace and per - fect jus - tice kissed a guilt - y world in love.
seals of mer - cy of - fered at the ta - ble of the

3.



20 Lord. Here is love, dis - played in splen - dor, bo - dy bro - ken, blood out - poured; signs and



25 seals of mer - cy of - fered at the ta - ble of the Lord.

We participate in the body of Christ as we give ourselves to him by giving our tithes and offerings

We give our offerings to God as a public demonstration of our faith, putting our money where our mouths are. In this action we show what we claim, that our lives are organized around God and lived for him instead of ourselves.

We participate in the body of Christ as we come to God in prayer that he would work in us according to his covenant promises in Christ

*During this time we live in faith, trusting in the power of his grace, placing our lives and our church in his hands.
We ask that he would work in us and through us for his glory.*

Prayer is not a sign of doubting, but a witness to our certain hope and confidence, since we ask the Lord for things that we know he has promised.
John Calvin

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

redeem

[ri'dēm]

gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment; buy back

God is our redeemer, the one who bought us back from the wages of our sin (death) by paying those wages in the death of Christ.

We glory in the one who gave himself for us

"I Will Glory in My Redeemer"

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of five staves. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a time signature change to 3/4. The lyrics are as follows:

I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, whose price - less blood has ran - somed
I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er; my life he bought, my love he
I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who car - ries me on ea - gle's

me. Mine was the sin that drove the bit - ter nails and hung him on that judge - ment
owns. I have no long - ings for a - no - ther; I'm sat - is - fied in him a -
wings. He crowns my life with lov - ing - kind - ness; his tri - umph song I'll ev - er

tree. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who crushed the pow'r of sin and
lone. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, his faith - ful - ness my stand - ing
sing. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who waits for me at gates of

death. My on - ly Sav - ior be - fore the ho - ly Judge: the Lamb who is my right - eous -
place. Though foes are might - y and rush up - on me, my feet are firm, held by his
gold. And when he calls me, it will be par - a - dise: his face for - ev - er to be -

ness, the Lamb who is my right - eous - ness.
grace, my feet are firm, held by his grace.
hold, his face for - ev - er to be - hold. last time, repeat from *

Since we participate in Christ, we participate in his death and his life, receiving his blessing upon us

Hebrews 13

Leader: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Amen

Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company.

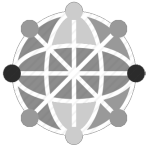
*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*



Welcome to Free Grace

We are a broken church full of broken people. We know we need God's free grace. Some of us have accepted this grace, some are exploring what it's all about. All of us are still trying to understand it. We are a church that seeks to proclaim this free grace of God with both our words and our lives. Not satisfied with simply talking about it, we want to live it out. We invite you to come, explore, and live God's free grace with us.

Our Connections



Free Grace is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a family of churches that seeks to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Our Leadership

Free Grace is lead by her elders, men called by God and set apart by the church to care and lead her as individual members, families, and as a whole. Our elders are:

Rev. Per Almquist (pastor)
Brian Cosgrove
Ken Morris



Credits

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Heather Kidd, *voice*; Kevin Kidd, *voice*; Millie Kidd, *piano*

"Glorious and Mighty" ©Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP)/Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI). Words: based on Psalm 96, Joel Szebel, Todd Twining, and Bob Kauflin, 2008. Music: Joel Szebel and Todd Twining, 2008.

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Public Domain. Words: Joachim Neander, 1680. Music: traditional German melody.

"And Can It Be" ©2010 Jacob Paris. Words: Charles Wesley, 1738. Music: Jake Paris, 2010.

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The sacraments are God's media. I rather
experience them than understand them.
John Calvin

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory