



**July, 13 2025**

## Offended By Grace

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

For you say, I am  
rich, I have prospered, and I  
need nothing, not realizing that  
you are wretched, pitiable, poor,  
blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy  
from me gold refined by fire, so that  
you may be rich, and white garments  
so that you may clothe yourself...  
and salve to anoint your eyes,  
so that you may see.

**Revelation 3:17-18**

The year of Jubilee was but a shadow. Christ is  
the substance. He proclaims liberty to captives  
and restores what sin has stolen.

Geerhardus Vos

19th century., Dutch-American theologian

And Jesus answered  
them, "Go and tell John what  
you hear and see: the blind  
receive their sight and the lame  
walk, lepers are cleansed and the  
deaf hear, and the dead are raised  
up, and the poor have good  
news preached to them."

**Matthew 11:4-5**

Man's mind is like a dark dungeon, until  
the light of Christ bursts in. We are not  
merely sick in understanding—we are  
blind.

John Calvin

16th century French Reformer  
author of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

Christ came to bring a Jubilee of grace, not to  
the proud who think they are free, but to those  
who know they are bound."

Sinclair Ferguson

Theologian, pastor

Chancellor's Professor at Reformed Theological Seminary

Is not this the fast  
that I choose: to loose the  
bonds of wickedness, to undo the  
straps of the yoke, to let the  
oppressed go free, and to break every  
yoke? Is it not to share your bread with  
the hungry and bring the homeless poor  
into your house; when you see the  
naked, to cover him, and not to  
hide yourself from your own  
flesh?

**Isaiah 58:6-7**

The gospel is not reformation but  
resurrection. It does not merely improve  
the slave—it sets him free.

Charles H. Spurgeon

19th century Reformed Baptist preacher  
known as the "Prince of Preachers"

He came to his own, and  
his own people did not receive  
him. But to all who did receive  
him, who believed in his name, he  
gave the right to become  
children of God,

**John 1:11-12**

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

**Leader:** Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Isaiah 55

**People:** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Psalms 95

**We lift our voices to make a joyful noise to our King**

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

1. Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing,  
 2. Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword,  
 3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear  
 4. To the great One in Three e - ter - nal prais - es be,

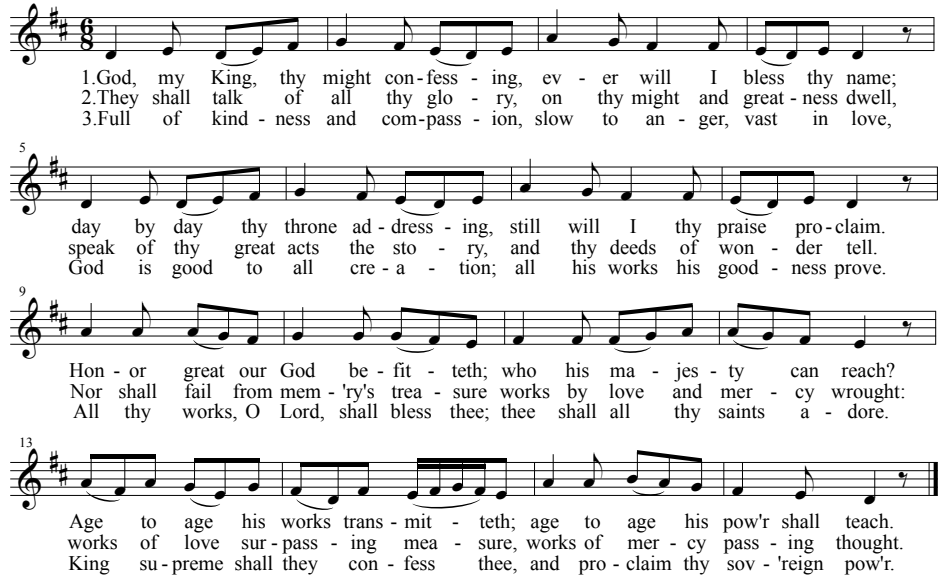
help us to praise. Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -  
 our prayer at - tend. Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy  
 in this glad hour. Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in  
 hence ev - er - more. His sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in

to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
 Word suc - cess; Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.  
 ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all.

2 Chronicles 29

"God, My King, Thy Might Confessing"



1. God, my King, thy might con-fess - ing, ev - er will I bless thy name;  
 2. They shall talk of all thy glo - ry, on thy might and great - ness dwell,  
 3. Full of kind - ness and com-pass - ion, slow to an - ger, vast in love,

5  
 day by day thy throne ad - dress - ing, still will I thy praise pro - claim.  
 speak of thy great acts the sto - ry, and thy deeds of won - der tell.  
 God is good to all cre - a - tion; all his works his good - ness prove.

9  
 Hon - or great our God be - fit - teth; who his ma - jes - ty can reach?  
 Nor shall fail from mem - 'ry's trea - sure works by love and mer - cy wrought:  
 All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee; thee shall all thy saints a - dore.

13  
 Age to age his works trans - mit - teth; age to age his pow'r shall teach.  
 works of love sur - pass - ing mea - sure, works of mer - cy pass - ing thought.  
 King su - preme shall they con - fess thee, and pro - claim thy sov - 'reign pow'r.

God is infinitely powerful, and His power is the life of His glory. Without power, His mercy would be but feeble pity, His promises an empty sound, His threatenings a mere scarecrow. But His power animates all.  
 Stephen Charnock  
 17th century Puritan theologian

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# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

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## God proclaims our blindness and rebellion in response to his patience

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him...

John 1

All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

Romans 10

Isaiah 55

## We confess that we are those who are blind, held captive and needing a savior

*We use this time in God's presence to confess our sins and our need for God's grace, silently, personally, before him alone. We invite you to join us in sorrow over your sin and joy in his grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.*

True confession  
does not end in  
shame, but in joy—  
for it finds the  
heart of God  
open, not  
clenched.  
Herman Bavinck

## Hear now God's promise of deliverance

to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.... I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

John 1

Isaiah 1

## We respond to God's assurance of pardon through Christ

"Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me "

What gift of grace is Je - sus my re - dee - mer There is no  
The night is dark but I am not for - sak - en For by my  
No fate I dread, I know I am for - giv - en The fu - ture  
With ev - ery breath I long to fol - low Je - sus For he has

3  
more for hea - ven now to give He is my joy, my righ - teous - ness, and  
side, the Sav - ior he will stay I la - bor on in weak - ness and re -  
sure, the price it has been paid For Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my  
said that he will bring me home And day by day I know he will re -

6  
free - dom My stead - fast love, my deep and bound - less  
- joic - ing For in my need, his pow - er is dis -  
par - don And he was raised to ov - er - throw the  
- new me Un - til I stand with joy be - fore the

8  
peace. To this I hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus For my  
- played. To this I hold, my Shep - herd will de - fend\_ me Through the  
grave. To this I hold, my sin has been de - fea - ted Je - sus  
throne. To this I hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus All the

11  
life is who - lly bound to his. Oh how strange and di - vine, I can  
deep - est val - ley he will lead Oh the night has been won, and I  
now and ev - er is my plea Oh the chains are re - leased, I can  
glo - ry ev - er - more to him When the race is com - plete, still my

14  
sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
shall o - ver - come! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
lips shall re - peat: Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

To him who loves  
us and has freed  
us from our sins by  
his blood and  
made us a  
kingdom, priests  
to his God and  
Father, to him be  
glory and  
dominion forever  
and ever.

Amen.

Revelation 1

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## GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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[14] And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. [15] And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Luke 4:14-30

[16] And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. [17] And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

[18] "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
[19] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

[20] And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. [21] And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." [22] And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" [23] And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "'Physician, heal yourself.'" What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" [24] And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. [25] But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, [26] and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. [27] And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." [28] When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. [29] And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. [30] But passing through their midst, he went away.

## **Offended By Grace**

That You May Be Certain

### **1) The Homecoming (v. 14–21)**

### **2) The Patronizing (vv. 22-27)**

### **3) Double-Edged Judgment (v. 28-30)**

*Proposition: Because Jesus fulfills the promise of God's mercy, we must receive Him as Lord—or resist Him in pride.*

## We respond in faith to the revealed Christ and come to him

"Come, Ye Sinners"

1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and wretch - ed,  
 2. Come, ye need - y, come and wel - come,  
 3. Come, ye wea - ry, hea - vy la - den,  
 4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger,  
 5. Lo! the in - car - na - te God, a - scend - ed,  
 weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;  
 God's free boun - ty, glo - ri - fy;  
 bruised and bro - ken by the fall;  
 nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;  
 pleads the mer - it of his blood;  
 Je - sus read - y stands to save you,  
 true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,  
 if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,  
 all the fit - ness he re - qui - res  
 ven - ture on him, ven - ture whol - ly,  
 full of pi - ty joined with power.  
 ev - r'y grace that you nigh.  
 you will ne - ver come at all.  
 is to feel your need of him.  
 let no oth - er trust in - trude.  
 He is a - ble, he is a - ble,  
 With - out mon - ey, with - out mon - ey,  
 Not the righ - teous, not the righ - teous;  
 This he gives you, this he gives you,  
 None but Je - sus, none but Je - sus  
 he come is will - ing; doubt no more.  
 sin - ners Je - sus Christ and buy.  
 'tis the Spir - it's ris - ing call.  
 can do help - less sin - ners good.

Come, everyone  
 who thirsts, come  
 to the waters; and  
 he who has no  
 money, come, buy  
 and eat! Come,  
 buy wine and milk  
 without money  
 and without price.

Isaiah 55

# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE


## We celebrate the Lord's Supper coming to Christ by faith in His liberating work

*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 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, you are acknowledging 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.*


"Behold the Lamb (Communion Hymn)"




1. Be - hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for us,  
2. The bod - y of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, torn for you,  
3. The blood that cleans - es ev - 'ry stain of sin, shed for you,  
4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re - spond



and we re-mem - ber the pro - mise made that all who come in faith find for -  
eat and re-mem - ber; the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the  
drink and re-mem - ber; He drained death's cup that all may en - ter in to re -  
and to re-mem - ber our call to fol - low in the steps of Christ as His



give - ness at the cross. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His  
price to make us one. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His  
ceive the life of God. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His  
bo - dy here on earth. As we share in his suf - fer - ing, we pro - claim Christ will



sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of peace a-round the ta-ble of the King.  
sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of love a-round the ta-ble of the King.  
sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of grace a-round the ta-ble of the King.  
come a - gain! And we'll join in the feast of heav'n a-round the ta-ble of the King.

The Lord's Supper  
is a visible gospel,  
setting before our  
eyes the grace we  
hear in the Word.

Zacharias Ursinus

## **By his grace, we recognize and confess who Jesus is with all the church**

Leader: What is it we believe about God, the Father?

Nicene Creed

People: **We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

Leader: What is it we believe about Jesus Christ?

People: **We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of the Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who, for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

Leader: What is it we believe about the Holy Spirit?

People: **And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Convinced of who Jesus is, we come to the Father—in His name, by the power of the Spirit within us.**

*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.*

Perhaps the most widely used statement of the Christian faith, the Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea in AD 325. It was written to declare that central to the Christian identity and proclamation is that our God is triune. The doctrine of the Trinity teaches that God is one in essence, three in persons. While there is a glorious mystery here, we accept what the Bible teaches about God, as he exists in the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

# GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

The lips that have  
been touched with  
a coal from God's  
altar cannot but  
speak of His glory.

Thomas Watson  
17th century Puritan  
Preacher

**We embrace Christ's Gospel and desire to proclaim it to all**

"O for a Thousand Tongues"

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with chords indicated above the staff. The lyrics are arranged in six lines, with the first line starting at measure 1 and the last line ending at measure 12. The score includes a repeat sign at the end of the first line and a final cadence at the end of the last line.

1.O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise, the  
2.My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim, to  
3.Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis  
4.He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, he sets the pris 'ner free; his  
5.He speaks and, list - 'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive; the  
6.Hear him, ye deaf, his praise, ye dumb, your loos - en'd tongues em - ploy; ye

6 F F/A B $\flat$  F/C C7 F

glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.  
spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.  
mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.  
blood can make the foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.  
mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.  
blind, be - hold your Sav - ior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

**God graciously imparts grace upon grace to those who receive His Son**

John 1

**Leader:** May the Word, which became flesh and dwelt among us, reveal his glory to you, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. May you receive from his fullness grace upon grace.

**People:** Amen

*Please stay and join us for a time of 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*

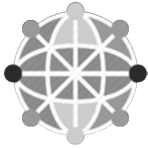




## Welcome to Free Grace

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.

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## 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. Dr. Per Almquist  
Brian Cosgrove  
Rev. Adam Lee  
Ken Morris  
Ben Van Dyke



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Beth Almquist, *piano*; Meredith Stevens, *voice*

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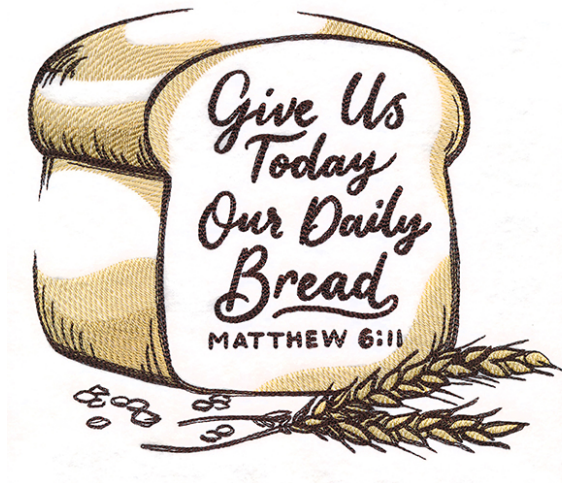
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# Our Daily Worship

## A through-the-week devotional



The following pages are provided for you with a desire to “lead you beside still waters”.

May they assist you in your walk with Christ through week, as you practice his presence, feed upon his word, and reflect upon how both impact your weekly life.

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## MONDAY

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**Scripture:** Luke 4:14–21

**Reflection:** Jesus stood in the synagogue of His hometown and read from Isaiah’s scroll—a passage about the year of the Lord’s favor, release for the captives, sight for the blind, liberty for the oppressed. Then He said something staggering: “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Jesus wasn’t pointing forward to a someday hope—He was proclaiming a present reality. The promised Redeemer had arrived. The mercy foretold for centuries was standing in their midst.

**Our Common Weakness:** We are often blind to the nearness of God’s mercy, even when it is right in front of us.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s mercy—God’s Spirit-anointed Redeemer who brings healing, freedom, and favor now.

**Digging Deeper:** Reflect on how clearly Jesus reveals Himself to be the promised Redeemer—and how easy it still is to overlook Him when He doesn’t meet our assumptions or timing.

**John 4:25–26 • John 11:25–26 • Matthew 11:2–6**

*What does Jesus reveal about Himself in these passages?*

*What stumbling blocks kept people from recognizing Jesus clearly in these passages, and how do those same patterns show up in your life today?*

*Jesus confirmed He was the promised one—but He didn’t change John’s personal circumstances. What does that teach you about trusting Christ when your situation remains hard or unresolved?*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, open my eyes to see You as the fulfillment of all God’s mercy. Keep me from a dull heart and drifting habits. Let me meet You again in the Word, knowing that in You, favor has come. Amen.

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## TUESDAY

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**Scripture:** Luke 4:20–21

**Reflection:** All eyes were fixed on Him. Jesus had just read Isaiah’s promise of healing, freedom, and favor. Then He sat down and declared, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” In that moment, He wasn’t merely identifying Himself—He was launching the mission. The gospel He proclaimed began to open eyes, release captives, and raise the poor in spirit—and it still does. The good news of Christ is not just a truth to affirm, but a power to behold. Around the world and in our neighborhoods, lives are being changed. What Jesus fulfilled, He now applies—through His Spirit and Word.

**Our Common Weakness:** We grow numb to the transforming power of the gospel, assuming it worked *then* but forgetting it works *now*.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus didn’t just fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy once—He continues to bring its promises to life. Reflect on how these passages describe His transforming work—and where you see it unfolding in your life (or long to see it unfold today):

### **Good News to the Poor**

*Matthew 5:3*

*2 Corinthians 8:9*

### **Liberty to the Captives & Oppressed**

*John 8:34–36*

*Romans 6:17–18*

### **Recovery of Sight to the Blind**

*2 Corinthians 4:3–6*

*Acts 26:17–18*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, You are not finished. You still lift the lowly and bring light to the blind. Forgive me for forgetting that Your gospel is power for *today*. Help me rejoice in what You are doing—even now. Amen.

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## WEDNESDAY

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**Scripture:** Luke 4:22–27

**Reflection:** At first, the people “spoke well of Him.” They marveled at His gracious words. But admiration is not the same as faith. Beneath their polite praise was a demand: “Do here what you did in Capernaum.” Prove it. Perform for us. Jesus exposed their hearts—not as spiritually hungry, but entitled and unbelieving. So He reminded them of a widow and a leper—neither of them Israelites—who received mercy because they trusted God before they saw the outcome. They believed God's word before they saw Him act, and He rewarded that faith—regardless of their heritage. The people of Nazareth couldn't bear this. They didn't want a Redeemer who rewarded faith—they wanted a miracle they could control. And when Jesus didn't play along, their admiration turned to rage.

**Our Common Weakness:** We want confirmation before commitment—proof before faith.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus reveals that God's mercy is not earned or inherited—but given to those who trust His word. He exposes pride and honors faith, calling us to believe Him before we see.

*Hebrews 11:1, 6 – How do these verses describe what real faith looks like? What does God promise to those who keep trusting Him, even when they can't see the outcome?*

*Luke 7:6–9 – How does Jesus respond to the centurion's faith—and what made it remarkable?*

*John 20:29 – What blessing does Jesus give to those who believe without seeing? Have you ever considered that he had you on his mind when he spoke these words? Let that sink into your heart, that he had YOU on his mind.*

**Prayer:** Lord, give me the kind of faith that trusts you before I see. Keep me from demanding signs, and teach me to take you at your word. You are worthy of faith because you are faithful. Help me believe that—especially when I cannot yet see the outcome. Amen.

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## THURSDAY

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**Scripture:** Luke 4:28–30

**Reflection:** The same people who admired Jesus moments earlier now try to kill Him. Why? Because His grace exposed their pride. Jesus didn't provoke them with violence or threats—but with truth. When they judged Him as blasphemous or presumptuous, they weren't just wrong—they were condemning the very One who came to save them. To reject Christ isn't a neutral choice. It is to reject the only source of mercy—and in doing so, to bring judgment upon oneself.

**Our Common Weakness:** We think we can remain undecided about Jesus.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus walked through their rage that day. But one day He would not walk away—He would be handed over and crucified, bearing the judgment of those who rejected Him, that some might be saved.

*John 3:18–19 – What does Jesus say about those who do not believe in Him? Why is the verdict already upon them?*

*Hebrews 2:2–3 – What warning is given about neglecting the salvation offered through Christ?*

*Matthew 21:42–44 – How does Jesus describe the danger of rejecting the cornerstone?*

**Prayer:** Holy God, let me not treat Your Son lightly. I confess how easily I grow cold to grace, or defensive when truth confronts me. Soften my heart. Let me not reject the Savior who came to save me. And let me tremble at the cost of resisting Him. Amen.

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## FRIDAY

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**Scripture:** Luke 4:18–19 (Revisited)

**Reflection:** Jesus declared that the Spirit was upon Him to bring good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. Throughout this week, we've seen how these are first and foremost spiritual conditions—describing our bondage to sin, our blindness to God's glory, our need for divine rescue. But they are not *only* spiritual. The Savior who opened hearts also touched eyes. The Redeemer who preached liberty also welcomed outcasts. And the Bread of Life did not only speak of hunger—He fed the hungry with loaves and fish, moved with compassion. He cared for the poor both with truth and with bread. Now, as His body, we are called to reflect His mercy in both word and deed. We bear witness to the gospel not only by proclaiming grace—but by embodying it among the poor, the suffering, the forgotten. His mercy is meant to be seen through His people.

**Our Common Weakness:** We err either towards meeting societal needs without the gospel, or towards sharing the truth of the gospel without carrying about societal needs.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus cared for people in a wholistic way. Body, mind and soul.

**Digging Deeper:** Reflect on how the mercy of Christ continues through His people—not just in doctrine but in deeds of compassion, presence, and sacrificial love.

**Matthew 25:40 • James 1:27 • Hebrews 13:1–3**

*How do these passages affirm that true faith expresses itself through concrete acts of mercy and presence?*

*Where have you quietly drifted into a “word-only” or “deed-only” approach to Christian witness?*

*What is one specific way you can reflect the Lord's favor this week to someone who is overlooked, burdened, or forgotten?*

**Prayer:** Gracious Savior, You sought me when I was poor, blind, and bound in sin. Now send me with that same mercy. Let me love the lowly, serve the suffering, and honor the overlooked—not to prove myself, but to glorify You. Let my life proclaim that the year of the Lord's favor has come. Amen.

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## CATECHISM CORNER

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### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### **Q# 31 – What is effectual calling?**

**A.** *Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.*

**Reflection:** In Nazareth, the crowd heard Jesus proclaim the day of God's favor—but they resisted Him because they refused to see their need. Effectual calling is the Spirit's gracious work to do what the natural heart will not: to **convince us of our sin, enlighten us to the glory of Christ, and renew our wills** so that we truly embrace Him. It is not merely an invitation, but a sovereign summons that brings dead hearts to life. This calling humbles the proud, heals the blind, and sets the bound soul free—not because we sought Him, but because He sought us.

**John 6:44** – *What does this verse reveal about our natural condition apart from the Spirit's work—and the power required to draw us to Christ?*

**Acts 16:14** – *What did the Lord have to do for Lydia before she could truly receive the gospel? How does this show that faith is a work of grace?*

**Ephesians 2:1–5** – *How does this passage describe our spiritual condition before salvation—and the mercy that made us alive together with Christ?*

**Reflect:** *When you consider that you were once spiritually dead—unable to see, love, or seek Christ—how does it humble you to know that the Holy Spirit opened your heart, gave you life, and drew you to the Savior?*

**Prayer:** Sovereign God, I thank you that you did not wait for me to open my eyes, but sent your Spirit to open my heart. Keep me from pride, and deepen my gratitude for your mercy. Let me never grow numb to the miracle of your salvation. Amen.

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## PRAYER & PRAISES

**Your elders are praying over the following matters and invite you to join us in seeking the Lord's help:**

**1) Pray that the Lord would raise up deacons from within our congregation.**

In this season, many practical needs are being met by your elders, which can stretch the time we have for our primary calling—prayer and the ministry of the Word. We are trusting the Lord to provide co-laborers who can share in the care and service of Christ's body.

2) **Prayer Request from Per:** The past six weeks have been a painful and hectic time of sudden, unexpected transition and uncertainty in the Office of the Stated Clerk. While the closing of GA has brought an easing of immediate pressure and some resolution, a level of uncertainty will continue through GA next year, at which point we will enter a time of transition with a new Stated Clerk taking office. Please pray for me to find rest from this past period and wisdom and grace in navigating the uncertainty of the coming year.

**Use this space to track record things you are praying for this week:**

[illegible]

### **This Week In Focus:**

#### **Sunday, July 13th –**

**Prayer Meeting-** 6:00pm at the church

#### **Thursday- July 17th-**

**Conversations in Grace-** 7:00pm – At the church (bring your worship folder)

#### **Friday, July 18th –**

**Men's Night -** 7:00pm – VanDyke Family Fire-pit

**Youth Group -** 7:00pm – At the church

#### **Sunday, July 20th –**

**Praying for Prodigals-** 8:30am in the pastor's office

If you would like to be added to our church-family email where you can keep in touch through the week, or if you would like to be added to the church directory, please email Linda at [linda.morris@freegrace.us](mailto:linda.morris@freegrace.us)

If you are a church member and are not using the church directory app, you are missing out on a very useful tool. Please reach out to Linda to see how to download it to your phone.

### **Regular Rhythms of Grace**

#### **Weekly Gatherings**

**Youth Group -** Fridays, 7:00pm – At the church

**Prayer Meeting -** Sundays, 6:00pm – At the church

#### **Monthly or Biweekly Gatherings**

**First Friday Fires -** 1st Friday, 5:45pm – Lee Family Home

Bring a side dish, and dress appropriately for the weather.

**Second Sunday Discussions -** 2nd Sunday, 15 minutes after worship ends

Family-style conversations on a rotating topic.

**Women's Breakfast -** 2nd Saturday, 9:30am – Cosgrove Family Home

**Men's Night -** 3rd Friday, 7:00pm – Location varies

**Praying for Prodigals -** 3rd Sunday, 8:30am – Church building

**Conversations in Grace -** 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00pm – At the church

Summer evening conversations in God's Word.

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory