



July 20, 2025

The Authority of the Gospel

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Hebrews 1:1-2

Let us therefore yield ourselves wholly unto the Word of God, for in it we find rest and peace to our souls.

Heinrich Bullinger
16th century Swiss Reformer
and successor to Zwingli

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

Christ does not merely declare truth—he is the Truth. To believe his Word is to bow before his throne.

Anthony Burgess
17th century English Puritan
and Westminster divine

The word of God is not to be judged by the opinions of men, but men by the word of God.

John Calvin
16th century Swiss reformer,
pastor, and theologian

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11

The church is built upon the foundation of the Word, not signs and wonders. Christ rules by his truth, not by spectacle.

Herman Bavinck
20th century Dutch reformed theologian

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

Psalms 47:1-2

People: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Psalms 47:5-7

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

People: For God is the King of all the earth.

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Psalms 145:10-13

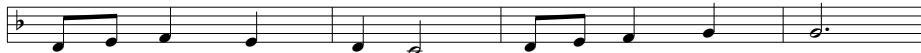
People: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

We sing praises to Jesus, the king of all creation

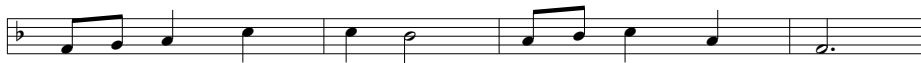
"At the Name of Jesus"



1. At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow;
2. At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight;
3. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
4. In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
5. Bro - thers, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



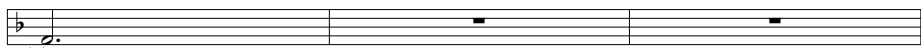
ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now.
all the an - gel fa - ces, all the hosts of light,
from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came.
all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign.



Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
thrones and do - mi - na - tions, stars u - pon their way,
Faith - ful - ly he bore it, spot - less to the last,
Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour,
For all earth - ly po - wers meet u - pon his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the migh - ty Word.
all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed.
let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
and our hearts con - fess him King of Glo - ry now.



Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

Isaiah 59

God proclaims the rebellion of our hearts because we do not listen to his word

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear... [But] thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Isaiah 57

There is more
mercy in Christ
than sin in us.
Richard Sibbes

We confess that We seek authority apart from God's Word— trusting in powers that cannot save.

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.

Ezekiel 36

God declares that by His grace, we are accepted by the cleansing He provides

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And 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. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

We marvel with joyous hearts at what Christ has done for us

"Down at the Cross"

1. Down at the cross where my Savior died,
2. I am so won - drous - ly saved from sin;
3. Come to the foun - tain, so rich and sweet;

down where for cleans - ing from sin I cried;
Je - sus so sweet - ly a - bides with - in;
cast thy poor soul at the Sav - ior's feet;

there to my heart was the blood ap - plied sing - ing,
there at the cross where he took me in, sing - ing,
plunge in to - day and be made com - plete, sing - ing,

1.
"Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Name."
"Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Name."
"Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Name."

2, 3.
me." There to my heart was the blood ap - plied sing - ing,
me."

"Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Name."

There to my heart - was the blood ap - plied sing - ing,

"Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Name."

But far be it from
me to boast
except in the cross
of our Lord Jesus
Christ, by which
the world has
been crucified to
me, and I to the
world.
Galatians 6

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

1. Al-le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter, his the throne. Al-le -
 2. Al-le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the Lord of lords we own; Al-le -

5
 lu - ia! His the tri - umph, his the vic - t'ry, his a - lone. Hark! The
 lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heav'n thy throne. Al - le -

9
 songs of peace-ful Zi - on thun-der like a might - y flood; Je - sus
 lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our food and stay! Al - le -

13
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood. Al - le -
 lu - ia! Here the sin - ful flee to thee from day to day. Al - le -

17
 lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor-row now. Al - le -
 lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter, his the throne. Al - le -

21
 lu - ia! He is near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques-tions how.
 lu - ia! His the tri - umph, his the vic - t'ry, his a - lone.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!' Revelation 5

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

[31] And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, [32] and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. [33] And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, [34] "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." [35] But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. [36] And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" [37] And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

Luke 4:31-44

[38] And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. [39] And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

[40] Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. [41] And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

[42] And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, [43] but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." [44] And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

The Authority of the Gospel

That You May Be Certain

Because Jesus has declared and proved His authority over all spheres of creation

1) **Authority over Demons** (v33-35)

2) **Authority over Disease and Death** (v38-41)

3) **Authority over Doctrine** (v31-32, 36-37, 42-44)

...Therefore, we are to submit to Him as citizens of His kingdom

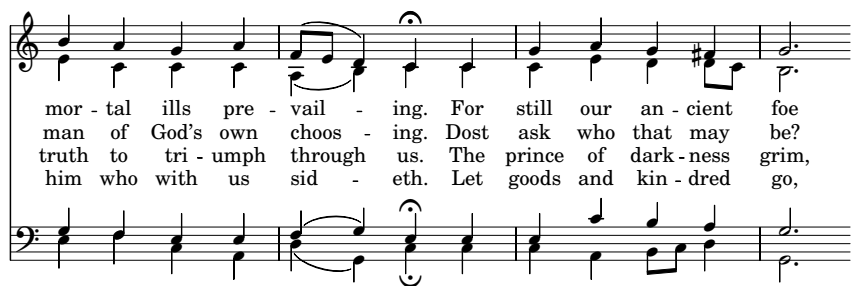
We declare our hope in Christ as the victor over satan. "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"



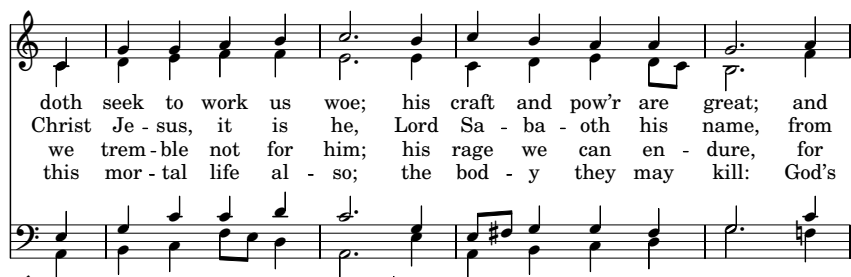
1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -



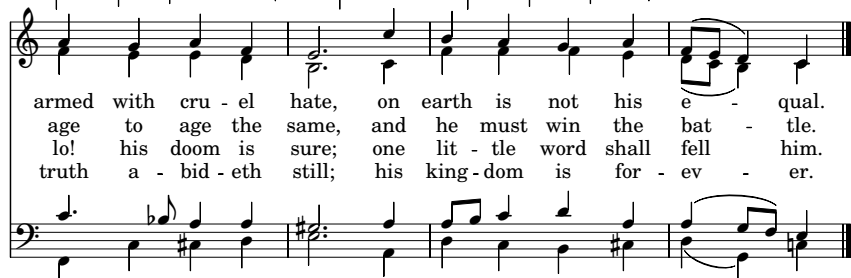
fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,



doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great; and
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sa - ba - oth his name, from
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure, for
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill: God's



armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still; his king - dom is for - ev - er.

God is our refuge
 and strength, a
 very present help
 in trouble.
 Psalm 46:1

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

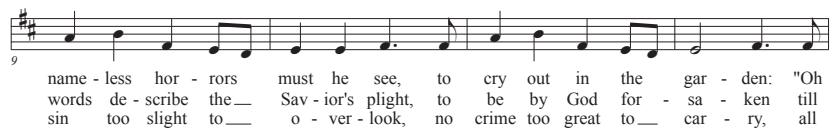
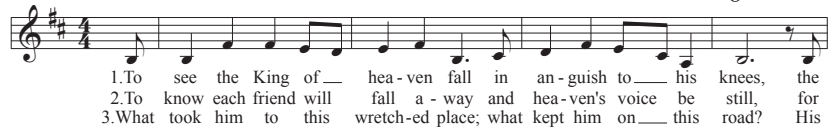
As surely as I see
with my eyes the
bread of the Lord
broken for me and
the cup given to
me, so surely his
body was offered
and broken for me
and his blood
poured out for me
on the cross.

Heidelberg Catechism
Question #75

We celebrate the Lord's Supper as we submit to Christ our King

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.

"To See the King of Heaven Fall"



We declare our being aligned to the Father, as we give our tithes and offerings

Leader: What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

People: **The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.**

Westminster Shorter
Catechism
Q#2

Leader: How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

People: **The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.**

Westminster Shorter
Catechism
Q#89

Leader: How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

People: **That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.**

Westminster Shorter
Catechism
Q#90

In prayer, we trust God's word which tells us to bring our petitions to him

*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.

Do not be anxious
about anything,
but in everything
by prayer and
supplication with
thanksgiving let
your requests be
made known to
God.
Philippians 4

GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

We rejoice that Christ is king and ruler of all

“Rejoice, the Lord is King”

1. Re - joice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King a - dore! Re -
2. Je - sus the Sa - vior reigns, the God of truth and love; when
3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n; the
4. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit, and
5. Re - joice in glor - ious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, and

6
joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er more.
he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n.
bow to his com - mand, and fall be - neath his feet.
take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

10
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Hallelujah! For the
Lord our God the
Almighty reigns.
Revelation 19

God graciously declares that he will keep you in all areas of life

1 Thessalonians 5

Jeremiah 31

Leader: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it... He has loved you with an everlasting love; therefore he will continue his faithfulness to you.

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*

FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE

Our fiscal year runs from July through June, so the books have just closed on 2024–25. As you'll see in the report, we finished in the black—reason to praise our God, who faithfully provides for every need.

If you've tracked our quarterly or annual reports in the past, you'll notice a significant change in layout. This is the first report to include *Jordan's Bridge (JB)* in the financials. Why the change? When Free Grace was planted, it was with a clear vision: to be both a church and a counseling center, working together as one ministry. JB is not a separate entity—it is a vital arm of Free Grace. While most ministries (such as men's, women's, or children's ministry) are reflected solely in the expense column, JB is unique in that it largely "pays for itself." Yet because it is not a stand-alone organization, the Session has determined our financial reporting should reflect the reality: we are one church, one mission, one budget. To help you understand the report, a brief explanation is provided below:

Member Giving – Tithes and offerings from Free Grace members.

Visitor Giving – Giving from regular attenders who are not yet members of the church.

Partner Giving – This is a major portion of our income and important to understand. It represents the ongoing support of generous partners who pledged to help launch Free Grace and Jordan's Bridge 17 years ago. These gifts have sustained us for many years—but this line is slowly declining, as expected. It's a blessing that so many supporters have remained with us, but this number will continue to decline and must be considered when assessing our long-term financial health.

JB Fee Income – Insurance or out-of-pocket, client fees.

Overhead– Includes building rent, heat, insurance, utilities, equipment, software, and related administrative expenses.

Ministry – Expenses tied directly to the church's ministry functions—vision, outreach, fellowship, community, etc.

Personnel – Includes salaries for pastoral and counseling staff, as well as two part-time administrative roles.

Summary: We have much to give thanks for. Much good has been done through your giving. The Lord has used your generosity to meet real needs—and the fruit is visible.

At the same time, the year ahead holds more ministry

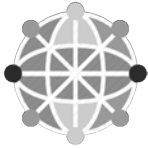
opportunity than ever before: more counseling needs, more gospel conversations, more lives to shepherd. As "Partner Giving" continues its expected decline, the ongoing generosity of our own congregation becomes even more vital. The Session asks you to pray. As we step forward in faith, consider how the Lord may be calling you to give—not just to sustain the work, but to expand it.

INCOME	
Member Giving	\$147,335
Visitor Giving	\$14,683
Partner Giving (FG & JB)	\$45,349
JB Fee Income	\$59,724
Interest	\$24
TOTAL INCOME	\$267,115
EXPENSES	
Overhead/ Admin	\$82,744
Ministry	\$19,197
Personnel	\$164,985
Total	\$266,926
NET POSITIVE	\$189



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



Credits

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Jake Paris, *guitar*; Connor Crawford, *voice*; Jocelyn Crawford, *voice*; Andrew Schanck, *bass*

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"Rejoice, the Lord is King" Public Domain. Words: Charles Wesley, 1746; alt. Music: John Darwall, 1770.

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.

MONDAY

Scripture: Luke 4:31–44

Reflection: Others needed permission to act. Jesus needed none. His authority didn't require approval—it was inherent and immediate. He taught with power that needed no validation. Demons fled by His word. Fevers vanished at His command. Crowds pressed in not to debate, but to be delivered. Luke records these moments not merely to show that Jesus *did* great things, but to prove who Jesus *is*—the One with authority over all things.

In this single scene, we glimpse the wide scope of His dominion: over the spiritual realm (demons), the physical body (sickness), and the mind and heart (doctrine). He does not borrow power from another source. He speaks and it is done. The One who declared liberty in Nazareth now proves it in Capernaum. This is not myth or metaphor. This is God's King, exercising God's authority, in real time.

Our Common Weakness: We reduce Christ's authority to the areas we're comfortable surrendering—ignoring that He rules over all.

Christ Connection: Though we resist His reign in areas we want to control, Jesus graciously reclaims what is His—including us. His authority is not only total—it is good.

Colossians 1:15–18 Hebrews 1:1–3 Matthew 28:18–20

What do these passages together reveal about the *scope* of Christ's authority?

What do they show about the *source* of His authority?

How do they clarify the *purpose* for which Jesus exercises His authority?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you have shown yourself to be King over all. Forgive me for the ways I divide my trust and compartmentalize your rule. Let me see your authority as good, holy, and redemptive—and help me live fully under it. Amen.

TUESDAY

Scripture: Luke 4:33–37

Reflection: In the synagogue at Capernaum, Jesus' presence exposed a hidden evil. A man with an unclean demon cried out in fear. The demon recognized Jesus' authority and begged to be left alone. But Jesus rebuked it, and with no struggle, the spirit came out. The crowd was astonished. He didn't cast out demons by ritual or borrowed power—He simply spoke. This is not brute force—it is rightful dominion. Jesus does not negotiate with darkness; He commands it. The spirit realm knows who He is and what He has come to do. And even now, while spiritual warfare remains real, Jesus has already declared victory. His word is still our shield and sword.

Our Common Weakness: We do not take spiritual warfare seriously, denying its reality, relying on our own strength rather than Christ's authority.

Christ Connection: Jesus, the conquering King, has crushed the powers of darkness and now supplies His Word and Spirit so His people can stand firm.

Matthew 12:28 – What does Jesus say demon-casting proves about the arrival of God's kingdom? How should that reshape how we view our lives under His reign?

Colossians 2:15 – How does Paul describe Christ's triumph over spiritual powers—and what does that mean for those who belong to Him?

James 4:7 – What two actions does James call us to? How do we resist the devil and submit to God by relying on the authority of Jesus and his word?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you reign over every unseen power. Thank you that I do not face the enemy alone. Teach me to rely on your word, to take spiritual battle seriously, and to trust that you have already won the victory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Scripture: Luke 4:38–40

Reflection: After displaying His authority over spirits, Jesus now shows His authority over sickness. He rebukes a fever and it leaves. He touches the sick and they are healed. Crowds press in, desperate for relief—and He gives it. But notice that he doesn't always do this... even in the text, he eventually leaves before everyone is healed.

This is where the so-called “health and wealth” gospel leads many astray. It claims healing is always God's will, and that true faith guarantees immediate relief. But Jesus' actions here—and His silence in other places—prove otherwise. He has authority to heal, yet He sometimes delays. Sometimes He says no. And when He does, it is never from weakness or disinterest, but from his most holy and wise purposes.

He allows physical and spiritual trials to continue—because He is refining, humbling, shaping, and calling us to deeper trust. We may not understand His timing, but unlike in Job's day, we are not left in the dark. His Word shows that delay is not defeat—and suffering is not failure, but formation in His hands.

O.C.W: We struggle to trust Christ's authority when His timing doesn't align with our desires.

Christ Connection: The King who sometimes withholds healing is the same King who bore our wounds and stays with us in the furnace.

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 What was God's purpose in allowing Paul's suffering, and how did that purpose reshape the way Paul viewed his weakness?

Isaiah 48:10 What does it mean that God refines us “in the furnace of affliction”? How should this shape our expectations in seasons of suffering?

Job 23:10 How does Job's trust in God's refining purpose—despite not understanding it—challenge our response to suffering?

Prayer: Lord, your power is real—even when you do not act the way I wish. Help me trust your timing, your wisdom, and your goodness. Teach me to see suffering not as a sign of your absence, but as a place where your purposes are at work. Refine me in the waiting. Amen.

THURSDAY

Scripture: Luke 4:42–44

Reflection: After healing many, the people urge him to stay. But he says he must go, because his mission is greater: to preach the good news of the kingdom. That remains the church's calling today—faithful proclamation of the truth above all other works.

Christ's authority extends even over doctrine. His word determines what is true. By his Spirit and Word, he still governs his people, through the church, whose authority is wholly spiritual and declarative. It is grounded in Christ's truth, not human opinion.

This means the church may not invent new doctrines, enforce personal preferences, or bind the conscience where Christ has not spoken. Nor are we free to ignore his commands or treat doctrine as negotiable.

Our Common Weakness: We confuse the church's mission—treating social programs as central, rather than proclaiming Christ as the heart of all we do—even in those very things.

Christ Connection: Jesus rules His church by His Word and Spirit, uniting truth and mercy; His authority keeps the mission clear and Christ central.

Romans 10:17 – Why must the Word—not signs or programs—remain central to the church's mission, and how does this verse clarify what leads to saving faith?

Matthew 12:39 – What warning does Jesus give about seeking signs instead of listening to His Word, and how does that speak to modern desires for the spectacular?

Luke 10:16 – How seriously does Jesus treat the hearing of His Word—and what does it mean that to reject the church's faithful proclamation is to reject Him?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, your Word gives life. Guard me from chasing signs or distractions, and give me ears to hear and hearts to receive your truth. Keep your church faithful—proclaiming you in all things with clarity, courage, and compassion. Amen.

FRIDAY

Scripture: Luke 4:42–44 (Revisited)

Reflection: Jesus' authority is not up for debate. He has shown it in all arenas of life. The question is not whether He reigns, but whether we will submit. The people of Capernaum tried to keep Him for their purposes. But Jesus would not be controlled. He said He must go—to preach, fulfill His mission, and bring the kingdom. That same authority now lays claim on us. We don't define the mission. We don't direct His work. We follow. His Word is not one option among many—it is the rule of our lives, our worship, and our witness.

O.C.W: We want the benefits of kingdom citizenship without the cost of kingdom allegiance.

Christ Connection: Jesus bought our kingdom citizenship at the cost of His own blood and now gives His Spirit so allegiance becomes joy.

Colossians 3:16–17 Romans 12:1–2 Matthew 7:24–27

What do these passages reveal about living under Christ's authority, and how does His Word shape that submission?

How do these verses challenge the way we evaluate success, purpose, or faithfulness in the Christian life?

Where do you see your heart resisting Christ's rule, and how do these passages invite renewed trust and obedience?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you have spoken with all authority in heaven and on earth. Conquer my pride and align my life with your Word. Shape me into a faithful citizen of your kingdom— Amen.

CATECHISM CORNER

Q. 26. How does Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Jesus is not a passive ruler or figurehead. He actively reigns, subduing our rebellious wills, defending us from spiritual enemies, and leading us by his word and Spirit. His kingly authority means we are not our own—we belong to him, body and soul and mind. In a world that prizes autonomy, his reign reorders our loyalties, calling us to joyful submission and bold trust in his rule.

Christ does not rule by force or fear, but by grace that renews the heart. His authority is never harsh or arbitrary; it is holy, just, and kind. Every rival power—whether internal pride or external pressure—only leads to bondage. But when we yield to Christ, we find freedom. His reign brings clarity in confusion, strength in weakness, and peace in the midst of unrest. To belong to this King is to be secure.

Philippians 2:10–11 Isaiah 9:6–7

Where in your life do you resist Christ's kingship, preferring your own control?

How does Christ's rule give you courage in a world of competing authorities?

Prayer: King Jesus, you are enthroned above all powers, and your kingdom shall never end. Subdue my wandering heart and lead me in joyful obedience. Help me to trust your rule when I am tempted to grasp for control. Make me a faithful citizen of your kingdom—living by your word, resting in your defense, and rejoicing in your victory. Amen.

PRAYER/PRAISES

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 seven 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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- 1) We need a "Church Fairy". You know what we mean? You know how stuff just magically reappears (soap, toilet paper, mints, coffee, etc)? Well, that is because we have always had a church fairy... one who takes about 10 minutes a week to walk around and spot check inventory. You do not need to purchase anything, or stock anything. Just fill out the slip and turn it in to Linda. This is a big help to everyone and we highly value our church fairy :-). See Linda to become our new church fairy.
- 2) We need additional volunteers to clean the church. Ideally, we would have 4-6 cleaning teams, that way you are only cleaning every 4-6 weeks. FYI: with two people, it takes about 2 hours to do everything on the checklist. You can partner up with a friend too. Please sign up to assist by reaching out to Linda.

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

This Week In Focus:

Sunday, July 20th –

Prayer Meeting- 6:00pm at the church

Friday, July 25th –

Youth Group - 7:00pm – At the church

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

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