

October 26, 2025

The Plain Sermon

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

### SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

Psalm 138:6

A humble sinner is in a better condition than a proud angel.

> Thomas Watson 17th-century Puritan pastor and theologian

Christ pronounces those to be happy who, chastened and subdued by afflictions, submit themselves wholly to God, and, with inward humility, betake themselves to him for protection.

John Calvin 16th-century Reformer, pastor, and theologian

Because you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Revelation 3:17

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. Psalm 103:10

No man shall ever be a loser, in the long run, by deeds of self-denying charity, and patient long-suffering love.

J. C. Ryle 19th-century Anglican bishop

What will fair professions avail, without a life answerable thereto?

> Matthew Henry 17th-century Puritan minister and Bible commentator

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

lames 1:22

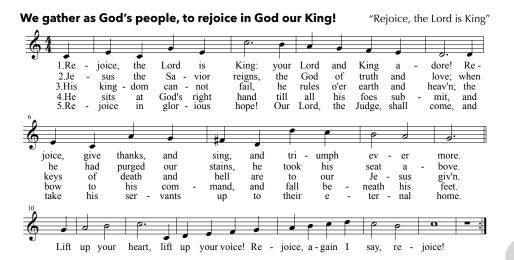
# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Psalm 147

People: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 145



The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Psalm 97



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!



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."

# GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

Luke 6:17-20a

[17] And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, [18] who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. [19] And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. [20] And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

Preaching is not about eloquence or entertainment. Preaching is letting God's Word loose so that by its power, it changes our lives.

#### Sermon

Rev. Adam Lee First Preached By Jesus "The Sermon on the Plain"

# **The Plain Sermon**

That You May Be Certain

Preaching is not a conversation, a chat about some interesting ideas... No! This is God speaking! He speaks through the stammering lips of the preacher where that preacher's mind is on the text of Scripture and his heart is in the presence of God. God, as Luther put it, lives in the preacher's mouth. David Wells

# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

Romans 3

### God proclaims that we have not lived according to his righteous standards

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

### We exhort one another, preparing our hearts for confession



In his death, we see a dreadful and hateful thing—our sin—placed on the Son of God. The cross teaches us to tremble at our guilt, and then to trust in His mercy.

# We confess our sins together; admitting to God that as a people we have not lived his ways

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;
and grant us faith in the midst of our struggles.

We thank you that you have set us free from a past that we can not change;

and given us a future in which we are changed, transformed by your Holy Spirit.

Grant we, who have fled to you for refuge,

strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us that Jesus Christ would be the sure and steadfast anchor of our souls.

We ask this by the power of his work on our behalf. 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.

### We confess our sins privately

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.

### God declares our righteousness before him through Jesus Christ our Lord

When the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to his mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3

### We burst forth with joy, resting in the assurance of our savior, now and ever!



Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!...To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

# We celebrate the Lord's Supper, coming to Christ who ministers to us in word and deed

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.

"Amazing Love" paid 1.My Lord. what love is this that so dear - ly, that 2.And they watched him die. des pised, re - ject - ed. But. SO 3.And now this love of Christ shall flow like riv - ers. Come I, the guil - ty one, free? A - maz-ing love, o what may go oh, the blood he shed flowed for me! wash your guilt a-way; live a gain! sac - ri - fice; Son of God giv'n for debt he paid and my the me! My death he died, that might live, that might live! I I

In the strange mercy of God the cup of his righteous wrath is given into the hands, not of his enemies, but of his beloved Son. And he will drink it, down to the dregs until the moment comes when "I thirst" gives place to "It is finished". Lesslie Newbigin

The Heidelberg Catechism, written in 1563 in Germany, was intended to instruct young people and guide pastors and teachers as an "echo of the Bible." It is intensely personal and devotional in its approach, leading to its description as "the book of comfort" for Christians.

### We profess that Jesus Christ is our only comfort and confidence

Elder: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to

my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Elder: How do you know this?

People: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law

of sin and death.

Elder: What then shall we say to these things?

People: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us

all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is

interceding for us.

### In prayer, we ask God to help us live like the new has come

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.

# GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

### We depart with joy & peace, declaring all glory belongs to God for his work in us



### God promises to keep you, as one who's house it built on a solid rock

Leader: Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy— to the only God, your Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and

authority, before all time, and now, and forever. Amen.

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

Jude 24-25



### **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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Beth Almquist, piano; Dan Crawford, voice; Joanne Crosby, flute

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"Amazing Love" ©1989 Make Way Music (ASCAP). Words & Music: Graham Kendrick, 1989.

"To God Be the Glory" Public Domain. Words: Fanny Crosby, 1875. Music: William Doane, 1875.

# 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.

# **SUNDAY**

**Scripture** – *Luke 6:17–19; Isaiah 61:1–3; Matthew 9:35* 

**Reflection:** Jesus steps down from the mountain to stand on level ground among the people. He does not only preach to them—he heals their bodies, restores their minds, and liberates their souls. The King of heaven descends not only from glory but from the mountain into the plain, standing in the dust of earth to show his disciples that the ministry of his kingdom is not to be worked out in ivory palaces, but in the dusty plains of everyday life. He does not separate word from deed; his words and his works are one, revealing a Savior who mends what sin has broken.

**Our Common Weakness:** We tend to divide what Christ keeps together. We serve the body without caring for the soul—or we preach the truth without touching the wounds.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus is the Great Physician who bore both our griefs and our iniquities. He restores creation one person at a time—through both his word and his wounds—and sends his followers to love as he loved.

Luke 6:17–19- What kind of care were these people seeking Jesus for?

**Isaiah 61:1–3**- What kind of ministry does this prophecy say the Messiah would bring?

**Matthew 9:35**- How does Jesus' pattern of ministry continue in this passage?

**Consider**- In what way are you more likely to separate the gospel? Works without His word, or Word without works?

**Embrace**- Where is Christ inviting you to bring truth and compassion together this week? How might you provide that wholistic care in the relationships you have been given?

**Prayer** Lord Jesus, you did not stay far off from the broken, but drew near with word and touch. Teach us to love others with that same wholeness—to serve both body and soul, truth and tenderness. Let our lives display your mercy and our words proclaim your grace. Amen.

# **MONDAY**

**Scripture:** Luke 6:20–26

**Reflection:** Jesus lifts his eyes toward his disciples and speaks a word that overturns the world's understanding of blessing. The King descends to speak eye-to-eye with sinners, demonstrating by his humility that the kingdom of God operates on a different economy. Yet he does not call poverty or rejection good in themselves; he calls blessed all who, in their need, find their sufficiency in him. In his kingdom, fullness is not measured by possessions, nor joy by reputation, but by belonging to Christ. The values of comfort, wealth, and applause lose their shine beside the surpassing worth of knowing him. What seems loss now will prove gain in him.

**Our Common Weakness:** We measure blessing by ease and success. We envy the strong, the admired, and the comfortable—forgetting that such treasures can blind us to our deeper need for grace.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus himself became poor, hungry, and despised as the Redeemer who bore our curse.

2 Corinthians 8:9- How does Jesus demonstrate his sermon lived out?

**Philippians 2:5–11**- What parallels to Jesus sermon on the plain can you see highlighted in these verses?

**James 2:14–17**- How do the "woes" Jesus proclaims in his sermon relate to our treatment of a brother or sister in this passage?

**Consider**- Where do you find yourself still measuring blessing by comfort, reputation, or control?

**Embrace**- What would it look like this week to treat your comforts and possessions as opportunities to reflect Christ's generosity?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you became poor so that through your poverty we might become rich. Teach us to see our blessings not as trophies to keep but as tools to serve. Loosen our grip on comfort and control, and open our hands to reflect your generosity. Make us merciful as you are merciful, that others might see your kingdom in us. Amen.

# **TUESDAY**

Scripture: Luke 6:27–38

**Reflection:** The mercy Jesus calls us to live out is nothing less than radical. He does not call us to a higher ethic but to a life we cannot live without him—the very life he lived, now lived through us. When he commands us to love our enemies, he is describing what he himself has done. We were once his enemies—hostile in mind and heart—yet he loved us, prayed for us, and poured himself out for our salvation. The cross is the living picture of this sermon fulfilled: blessing those who curse, giving to those who take, forgiving those who wound. Such mercy is not human—it is divine. It flows from the heart of a Savior who gave himself even for those who drove the nails. To follow him is to let that same mercy extend in our lives, loving as we have been loved.

**Our Common Weakness:** We often return insult for insult and give only when it feels safe. Mercy seems wasteful when we forget how lavishly we have been loved.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus lived the very mercy he commands. By his Spirit, that same mercy now lives in us.

Luke 23:33–34- What words did Jesus speak toward his enemies as they crucified him?

Romans 5:6–10- What words does Paul use to describe our condition before Christ saved us?

**Ephesians 2:1–5**- What descriptions are used in this passage to communicate our relationship to God at that time?

**Consider**- Has anyone ever shown you this kind of Christlike mercy— or been a regular example to you of this kind of life? If so, who?

**Embrace**- What is the greatest roadblock that keeps you from showing this mercy to others? Name it specifically here... and then pray asking God to remove it from your heart.

**Prayer:** Merciful Savior, you loved your enemies and prayed for those who hated you. Teach us to see how your mercy toward us changes everything. Where we are quick to repay hurt with hurt, soften our hearts by your cross. Let your Spirit work in us until forgiveness becomes our instinct and love our response. May the mercy that saved us become the mercy that shines through us, for your glory. Amen.

# WEDNESDAY

Scripture: Luke 6:46–49

**Reflection:** Jesus ends his sermon with a picture both simple and searching. It is possible to stand in awe of his words—the blessings and woes, the mercy and generosity—and yet remain unchanged. The Sermon on the Plain wasn't meant to be admired but obeyed. "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" he asks. The wise builder digs deep and anchors his life on Christ, trusting his Word enough to obey it. The other builds on the surface, content with admiration— unwilling to follow. Storms come to both, but only one stands. In this closing image, Jesus calls us to more than agreement; he calls us to union—to let his teaching take root and shape how we live. The invitation is not to earn stability, but to rest our whole weight on the Rock who already stood through every storm for us.

Our Common Weakness: We often admire Christ's words but delay obedience, mistaking appreciation for faith. We nod at truth yet build on shifting sand.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus is both the Rock and the Builder. He obeyed the Father perfectly and stood firm through the storm of judgment so that we might be secure in him. **James 1:22–25**- How does James describe the danger of hearing the Word without doing it?

**1 Corinthians 3:11**- According to Paul, what is the only foundation that can endure the test of time?

John 13:12–17- Jesus gives the disciples an example. Why?

**Consider**- Where in your life do you sense you've been hearing Christ's words but not yet doing them?

**Embrace**- What support or steps might help you move from hearing to doing? How could you take one small, faithful act of obedience this week?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you are our firm foundation. Forgive us for hearing your Word yet hesitating to obey. Anchor us in your grace so that faith may bear fruit in obedience. When storms rise and winds howl, keep us standing by your strength. Build in us lives that endure—strong not by our resolve, but by your steadfast love. Amen.

### **THURSDAY**

**Scripture** – The sermon on the plain <u>viewed through John 15:1–5</u>

**Reflection:** Normally, our Thursday devotional helps us reflect on the conclusion of Sunday's sermon. Yet Jesus' sermon on the plain ends without a formal conclusion. He closes not with comfort but with confrontation—two builders, two foundations, and the question of which life will stand. His final words leave us standing in the rubble of our own strength, unless we build on him. And yet this same Christ invites us to abide in him. The call to build becomes the call to rest upon the Rock himself. Apart from him, even our best obedience crumbles; united to him, our lives bear the very fruit his sermon describes. The Beatitudes, the mercy, the steadfastness—none are human achievements. They are the living proof of a heart joined to the true Vine. The branch does not strive to prove its life; it simply remains where life flows. So it is with us: what he commands, he supplies; what he requires, he gives.

**Our Common Weakness:** We hear Christ's sermon and try to live the life he calls for in our own strength, instead of resting in Christ, the Vine who gives us strength.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus is the true Vine who bore the curse of fruitlessness for us and now fills us with his own life. The fruit his sermon demands, his Spirit grows within us.

Galatians 2:20- How does Paul describe the believer's union with Christ?

**Philippians 1:9–11**- Paul prays that the believers will be filled with the fruit of righteousness. Where does he say this fruit comes from?

**Consider**- Where are you hearing Jesus commands and trying to live them out in your own strength rather than drawing life from him?

**Embrace**- What minor change would help you to slow down this week and abide—to rest, pray, or serve in conscious dependence on the Vine?

**Prayer** Lord Jesus, true and living Vine, we rejoice that your Spirit flows in us, producing fruit that we could never grow on our own. Let your joy be our strength and your peace our steadiness. Teach us to delight in the daily gift of abiding—to work and rest, to speak and serve, out of the abundance of your presence.. Amen.

# FRIDAY- CATECHISM CORNER

### Q. #42 What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Reflection: As you reread Luke 6:20-49, consider how each part of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain may reflect the heart of the Ten Commandments—even if only as an echo. You may not

find a connection in every command, and that's alright. Do your best, and feel free to reach
out to me with what you discover; I'd love to reflect on it with you. Remember, Jesus is not
giving a new law, but showing what love for God and neighbor truly looks like when lived in
him. Jot down which verses may be an echo of each commandment:
1. You shall have no other gods before me.

- You shall not make for yourself an idol.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 10. You shall not covet.

# 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."

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

### This Week In Focus:

# Sunday, October 26th -

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

### **Tuesday- October 28th-**

Free Grace English@ The Root Cellar- 6:30-7:30pm

### Wednesday- October 29th-

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

### Friday, October 31-

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

### Saturday, November 1st-

Annual "Pie Luck" - Bring your best pie, or your biggest appetite. See Linda Morris FMI

### Saturday, November 1st-

Remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour!

<u>If you do not know</u> the address of any event, or the contact information for any event, please contact either Pastor Adam at <u>adam.lee@freegrace.us</u> or Linda at the email address below.

<u>If you would like to</u> 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

<u>If you are a member of Free Grace</u> 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

Free Grace English @ the Root Cellar -Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

**Conversations in Grace -***Wednesday 7:00pm – At the church(conversation about the weekly devotional).* 

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

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

## **Monthly Gatherings**

**Second Sunday Discussions -** 2nd Sunday, 15 minutes after worship ends Family-style conversations on a rotating topic.

**Session Meetings-** 2nd Thursday, 9am- Pastor's office (visitors are welcome to sit in)

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

broken people bound together in Christ for God's glory