



October 11, 2026

How to Pray: As Those Who Are Forgiven

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Psalms 130:3-4

If anyone insists on his own goodness and despises others...let him look into himself when this petition confronts him. He will find he is no better than others and that in the presence of God everyone must duck his head and come into the joy of forgiveness only through the low door of humility.

Martin Luther

16th Century German reformer, theologian and pastor

The Lord's Prayer does not make a human action, the forgiveness of others, the ground forgiveness. The New Testament is clear that forgiveness springs from the grace of God and not from any human merit. Rather the thought moves from the lesser to the greater: since even sinful men like us forgive, we can confidently approach a merciful God.

Leon Morris

20th century Australian New Testament scholar and Anglican minister

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Micah 7:18-19

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32

By forgiving our debtors...we show our family resemblance to our Father in heaven.

Phillip Graham Ryken

Presbyterian minister, theologian, and president of Wheaton College

Forgiven people forgive. It is as simple as that. If you never forgive, you ought to wonder if you have ever truly experienced and really believe in forgiveness.

Kevin DeYoung

Senior pastor of Christ Covenant Church (PCA), moderator of the PCA's 52nd General Assembly. NOTE: This quotation and others from him are from the 4th book in the "Turning Table" track which we welcome you to join if you have not yet begun.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Colossians 3:12-13

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Psalms 103

People: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Psalms 146

We sing praises to the Lord who gives us life

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

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

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!
 Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.
 All that have life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him!

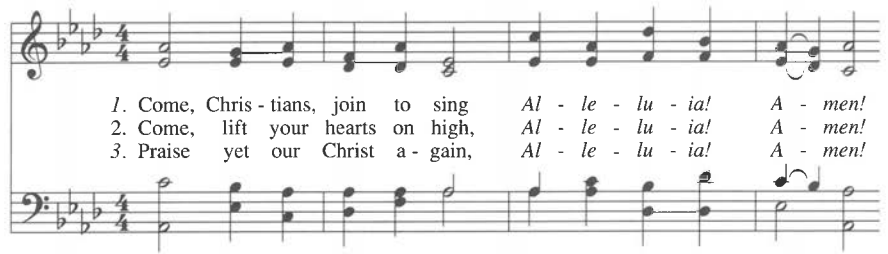
All ye who hear, now to his tem-ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen how all thy long-ings have been
 Pon-der a-new what the Al-migh-ty can do,
 Let the a-men sound from his peo-ple a-gain;

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

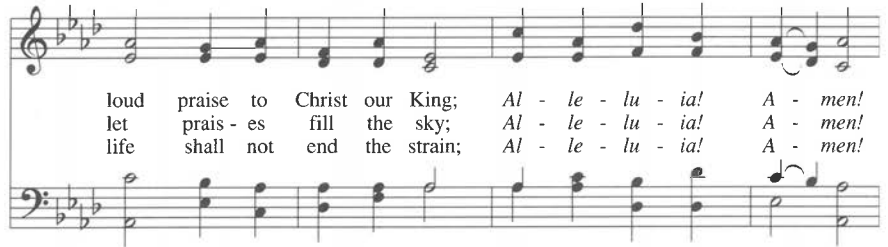
I will extol you, my
 God and King, and
 bless your name
 forever and ever.
 Every day I will
 bless you and
 praise your name
 forever and ever.

Psalms 145

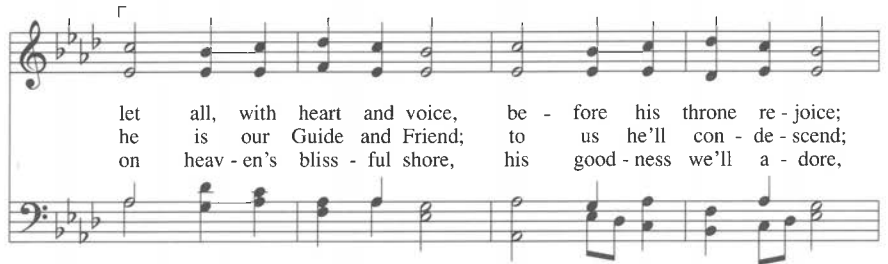
"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"



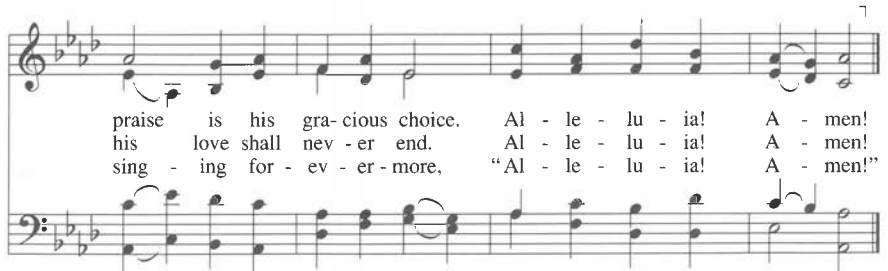
1. Come, Chris - tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 on heav - en's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,

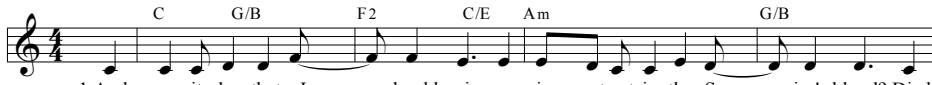


praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

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

"And Can It Be"



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



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



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



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



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

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.

Romans 8

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

Matthew 6:5-15

[5] “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. [6] But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

[7] “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. [8] Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. [9] Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

[10] Your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

[11] Give us this day our daily bread,

[12] **and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

[13] And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

[14] **For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,** [15] but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Notes

Rev. Adam Lee

How to Pray: As Those Who Are Forgiven

Intro:

Scriptures
referenced
during
introduction

Rom 3:23

1) **Confessing the debt we owe**

a) Is our own

b) Is against an infinitely holy God

c) Is beyond our ability to pay

Point I

Rom 3:9–22

Ez 18:20

Ps 51:4

Ps 49:7–9

2) **Trusting the satisfaction Christ provides**

Point II

Rom 3:24–26

Eph 1:6–7 1

Peter 1:18–19

Hosea 14:2

Jeremiah 14:7

1 John 1:9

3) **Forgiving the debts others owe**

a) As evidence of forgiveness we have received

b) as children accountable to our Father

-in this life

-in the life to come

Point III

James 2:14–17

Psalm 89:30–33

Matthew 26:75

Luke 1:20

1 Cor 11:30, 32

2 Cor 5:10

1 Cor 3:11–15

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

Romans 3

God proclaims that we are the ones standing in need of forgiveness

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

1 John 1

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

We confess our sins, asking our Father to forgive our debts

O God of grace,
in Jesus Christ, you have become our sin
that we might become your righteousness.
You have clothed us with a bridegroom's robe
and decked us with jewels of holiness.
But in our Christian walk, we are still in rags;
our best prayers are stained with sin;
our penitential tears are so much impurity;
our confessions of wrong are so many aggravations of sin.
We repent of our repentance.

But God
demonstrates His
own love toward
us, in that while we
were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Romans 5

We have no robe to bring to cover our sins,
no loom to weave our own righteousness;
We stand always clothed in filthy garments
and by grace are always receiving a change of raiment.
We continually go into the far country,
always returning home as prodigals,
always saying, "Father, forgive me,"
and you are always bringing forth the best robe,
the robe of Christ's righteousness.
Every morning, let us wear it;
every evening return in it,
go out to the day's work in it,
be married in it,
be found in death in it,
stand before the great white throne in it,
and enter heaven in it shining as the sun.
Thank you, Father, for the celebration that attends
our being found by your grace.
May we rejoice with you
at the finding of each lost sheep,
each lost coin,
at every prodigal that comes home
and receives new raiment from you.
Draw us into that heavenly celebration
through Jesus Christ,
the good shepherd who found us.
Amen.

God answers our petition through Jesus Christ

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Christ, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2

We rejoice that our debt is paid, and become debtors to mercy

"A Debtor to Mercy Alone"

1 A debt - or to mer - cy a - lone, of
The work which to his good-ness be - gan, the
My name from the palms of his hands e -

3 cov - e - nant mer - cy I sing; nor fear, with thy
arm of his strength will com-plete; his prom - ise is
ter - ni - ty will not e - rase; im-pressed on his

6 righ - teous-ness on, my per - son and of - f'ring to bring. The
yea and a - men, and nev - er was for - feit - ed yet. Things
heart it re - mains, in marks of in - del - i - ble grace. Yes,

9 ter - rors of law and of God with me can have no - thing to do;
fu - ture, nor things that are now, not all things be - low nor a - bove,
I to the end shall en - dure, as sure as the ear - nest is giv'n;

12 my Sav - ior's o - be - dience and blood hide
can make him his pur - pose for - go, or
more hap - py, but not more se - cure, the

15 all my trans - gres - sions from view.
sev - er my soul from his love.
glo - ri - fied spir - its in heav'n.

Every day we live
as debtors to
mercy.
Kevin DeYoung

We celebrate the Lord's supper, coming to the Fathers table as forgiven children

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.

“It is Finished”

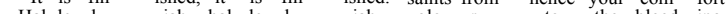
1. Hark, the voice of love and mer - cy sounds a - loud from Cal - va - ry!
 2. "It is fin - ished," o what plea - sure do these charm - ing words a - ford.
 3. Fin - ished all the types and sha - dows of the cer - e - mon - ial law.
 4. Tune your harps a - new, ye ser - aphs, join to sing the pleas - ing theme.

4 See, it rends the clouds a - sun - der, shakes the earth and veils the __ sky!
Heav'n - ly bless - ings with - out mea - sure flow to us from Christ __ the __ Lord.
Fin - ished all that God had pro - mised; death and hell no more __ shall awe.
Saints on earth, and all in hea - ven, join to praise E - man - uel's name.

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 8/6 time. It begins with a fermata over the first eighth note. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, ending with a half note.

"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," hear the dy - ing Sav - ior cry.
"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," saints the dy - ing words re - cord.
"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished:" saints from hence your com - fort draw.
Hal-le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!

12



"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," hear the dy - ing Sav - ior cry.
"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," saints the dy - ing words re - cord.
It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished: saints from hence your com - fort draw.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!

Hal-le-lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo-ry to the bleed-ing Lamb!

21 Hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah, glo-ry to the bleed-ing Lamb!

When we partake of the cup in faith it is the Lord's own certification to us that all that the new covenant in his blood involves is ours. It is the seal of his grace and faithfulness.

John Murray

We profess with all the church, the glory of the gospel

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

In prayer, we come to our Father who desires us to bring our needs before 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.*

The kingdom of
God that we pray
to come is the rule
of Jesus Christ, the
eternal and all-
encompassing
reality of God's
reign from which
nothing and no
one escapes.

GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

We depart in the wonder of the gospel

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"



1. Let us love and sing and won - der,
2. Let us love the Lord who bought us,
3. Let us sing, though fierce temp - ta - tion
4. Let us won - der; grace jus - tice
5. Let us praise, and join the cho - rus



let us praise the Sa - vior's name!
pit - ied us when en - - e - mies,
threat - ens hard to bear - - e down,
join and point to mer - cy's store;
of the saints en - throned on high;



He has hushed the law's loud thun - der,
called us by his grace, and taught us,
For the Lord, our strong, sal - va - tion,
when through grace in Christ our trust
here they trust - ed him be - fore us,



he has quenched Mount Si - nai's flame: he has
gave us ears and the gave us eyes: he has
holds in view and the con - qu'ror's crown: he who
jus - tice smiles and asks no more: he who
now their prais - es fill the sky: "Thou hast



washed us with his blood, he has washed us with his blood, he has
washed us with his blood, he has washed us with his blood, he has
washed us with his blood, he who washed us with his blood, he who
washed us with his blood, he who washed us with his blood, he who
washed us with thy blood, thou hast washed us with thy blood, thou hast



washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.
washed us with his blood, he pre - sents our souls to God.
washed us with his blood, soon will bring us home to God.
washed us with his blood, has se - cured our way to God.
washed us with thy blood; thou art worth - y, Lamb of God!"

God declares

1 Peter 2

Leader: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy...Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

1 Peter 3

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.

Just as we cannot enter worship apart from God's grace, so we cannot leave worship apart from God's grace. The benediction is not merely a closing word; it is God's blessing spoken over his people, sending us out in the strength he supplies to live for him.



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:

Brian Cosgrove
Rev. Adam Lee
Ken Morris
Ben Van Dyke



Credits

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Joanne Crosby, *flute*; Judah Paris, *guitar*; Connor Crawford, *piano/voice*

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

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Public Domain. Words: Christian H. Bateman, 1843. Music: Traditional Spanish Melody, arr. by David Evans, 1927.

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

"A Debtor to Mercy Alone" ©1998 Kevin Twit Music. Words: Augustus Toplady, 1771. Music: Kevin Twit, 1998.

"It is Finished - Part II" ©2006 Red Mountain Music. Words: Attributed to Jonathan Evans, 1784 & Benjamin Francis, 1787. Music: Jeff Koonce, 2005; arranged by Beth Almquist, 2012.

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder" ©2001 Laura Taylor Music. Words: John Newton, 1774. Music: Laura Taylor, 2001.

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.

WHY MEMORIZE THE CATECHISM?

From time to time I am asked, "Why encourage memorizing the Catechism instead of Scripture?" The answer is simple: we are not choosing between them. We encourage both. One of the great strengths of the Catechism is that it teaches us to ask questions we might not think to ask on our own. Many Christians have memorized Bible verses, which is a wonderful thing. Yet it is possible to know Scripture without ever stopping to ask how those passages answer the practical and theological questions of the Christian life. The Catechism helps us make those connections.

For example, many Christians have heard the phrase, "sin is sin," and would assume that all sins are equal in every respect. Yet when the Catechism asks, "Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?" the answer may surprise us. The beauty of that moment is that one who is working through the catechism should ask, '*Wait, what? Why?*' And then proceed to look up the Scripture references.

The Catechism is not a replacement for the Bible. Rather, it is a guide that helps us organize, understand, and apply the Bible's teaching to the whole of life. For that reason, every answer is supported by Scripture references.

As you work on memorizing this week's question and answer, take time to study the passages listed below and see how what we confess is derived from God's Word. **If you do not have a copy of the Catechism with Scripture proofs, please speak with an elder and we will gladly provide one.** It will be easier to have a copy because these verses will all be printed out in their entirety.

Genesis 3:6-8
Genesis 3:13
Romans 5:12-14
2 Cor 11:3

SUNDAY

Scripture – Matthew 6:9–12

Reflection: When Jesus teaches us to pray, “Our Father in heaven,” he invites us to approach the God whose name is holy. What a remarkable privilege! The One before whom angels bow in worship welcomes his children to come before him with their needs, including forgiveness.

But how can a perfectly holy God forgive sinners? His justice demands that sin be judged. We sometimes imagine that mercy means setting justice aside, as though God must choose between being holy and being gracious. Yet our heavenly Father is perfectly both. In his mercy, the Father sent his Son to provide what his justice required. Jesus lived the obedience we owed and bore the punishment our sins deserved. At the cross, God's holiness was not compromised, nor was his mercy withheld. In Christ, justice was satisfied so that sinners might be forgiven. The apostle John shows us how God's perfect holiness and gracious forgiveness meet in Jesus Christ.

Read 1 John 1:5–2:2

What does it mean when John says that God is “faithful” to forgive our sins? What does this mean for us on any given day of the week?

How does God's being “faithful” differ from his being “just” to forgive? What does each word teach us about the forgiveness he provides?

How should these truths encourage you to draw near to your heavenly Father when you are convicted of sin?

Prayer Heavenly Father, we praise you for your holiness, faithfulness, and justice. Thank you that through Christ you are faithful and just to forgive our sins. When we are convicted of sin, keep us from hiding our guilt or doubting your promises. Teach us to come humbly and confidently before you, trusting in the perfect satisfaction of our Savior. Amen.

<<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>>

Q#13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

Adults: Read the Q/A aloud three times. Do not try to memorize it yet. Simply listen for the main truth being taught.

Parents: Read it with your child. Ask if they have questions. Explore those together, and let their questions guide your study this week.

MONDAY

Scripture: Matthew 6:9–12

Reflection: There is something unsettling about the way Jesus teaches us to pray. We eagerly ask our Father to forgive our sins, yet how readily do we extend that same forgiveness to those who sin against us? When someone wrongs us, we often become careful accountants. We remember what was said, how deeply it hurt, and whether the offender has suffered enough to understand the pain they caused. We may claim to have forgiven them while continuing to demand payment through resentment, coldness, or withheld kindness. How differently we regard our own sins! We plead for understanding, patience, and mercy, yet struggle to offer these same things to others.

Jesus exposes this inconsistency in a parable. As you read, consider how we can hold long accounts with those who have hurt us, while at the same time asking God for forgiveness.

Read Matthew 18:21–35

How do the debts owed by the two servants compare, and why is that difference significant?

How did the first servant treat his fellow servant, despite having received such extraordinary mercy?

In what ways might we resemble the unforgiving servant in our treatment of those who have wronged us?

In verse 34, the king delivers the unforgiving servant to the jailers (or “tormentors,” KJV). What might the consequences of an unforgiving heart look like in our own lives?

Prayer Heavenly Father, forgive us for being quick to seek mercy and slow to extend it. Expose our unforgiving hearts and the ways we demand payment from others. Teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven in Christ. Amen.

<<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>>

Q#13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

Adults: Read the Q/A several times. Look up a couple Scripture proofs and meditate on it this week.

Parents: Explain one key word, then say the answer together.

TUESDAY

Scripture: Matthew 6:9–12

Reflection: Notice that Jesus teaches us to pray, “Forgive us **our** debts.” There is no room in those words for shifting blame. Confession requires that we acknowledge our sins as our own. Yet how readily we explain away our wrongdoing! We appeal to difficult circumstances, point to someone else's behavior, or insist that our intentions were good. Rather than confessing our sin, we construct a defense for it.

Consider the difference between saying, “I was angry because you provoked me,” and “I sinned against you in my anger.” One seeks justification; the other takes responsibility. King David knew something about hiding sin. After his grievous sins against Bathsheba and Uriah, he attempted to conceal what he had done. But when the prophet Nathan confronted him, David finally acknowledged his guilt.

Read 2 Samuel 12:1–13

How did Nathan bring David to recognize the seriousness of his sin?

What did David's response in verse 13 reveal about his willingness to accept responsibility?

When confronted with our own sins, what excuses are we most tempted to make rather than confessing them?

Prayer Heavenly Father, grant us humility to recognize our sins and courage to take responsibility for them. Guard us against making excuses or shifting blame. Give us hearts that are quick to confess the truth and eager to walk in obedience to you. Amen.

<<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>>

Q#13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

Adults: Write the answer twice. Notice the commas and use them to break the answer into smaller parts. Work on one part at time and bring each new part in as you are ready.

Parents: Write the answer with one word missing. Let your child fill it in. Repeat with different words.

WEDNESDAY

Scripture: Matthew 6:9–12

Reflection: When Jesus teaches us to pray for forgiveness, we must ask an important question: What could possibly be valuable enough to satisfy the debt of our sins? We understand that things possess different values. A handful of gravel and a handful of diamonds may weigh the same, but their worth is vastly different. Value is not simply a matter of quantity, but of what something actually is.

Now consider the value of a human soul. What could we offer God in exchange for our forgiveness? Even the greatest treasures of this world cannot purchase our redemption. Yet Scripture tells us that a price has been paid. Not with something perishable, but with something of surpassing worth. And its value rests upon the identity of the One who gave it. As you read Peter's words, consider why the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is sufficient to redeem sinners.

Read 1 Peter 1:17–21

According to verses 18–19, what could not redeem us, and what was the price of our redemption?

Why does Peter describe Christ as a lamb “without blemish or spot”? What does this teach us about the value of his sacrifice?

How should knowing the price of our redemption shape the way we live before God (v. 17)?

Prayer Heavenly Father, deepen our understanding of the surpassing worth of Christ's sacrifice. Strengthen our faith in his sufficient redemption, and teach us to live with reverence and gratitude for the precious blood by which we have been redeemed. Amen.

<<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>>

Q#13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

Adults: Write the first letter of each word on paper. Use those letters as prompts and see how far you can get without looking at the answer.

Parents: Have your child draw a picture of one truth contained in the Q/A. Discuss it together, then recite the answer.

THURSDAY

Scripture – Matthew 6:14

Reflection: One of the troubling ideas about forgiveness today is what we might call *therapeutic forgiveness*: the notion that unless all painful feelings have disappeared, we have not truly forgiven. This teaching can burden tender consciences with unnecessary guilt. A person may sincerely forgive someone, yet still experience sadness, anger, or a twinge of pain when remembering the offense. Does that mean forgiveness has failed?

Consider Jesus upon the cross. His enemies had mocked him, beaten him, and driven nails through his hands and feet. While he was still bleeding, he prayed, “*Father, forgive them.*” The wounds had not healed. The suffering had not ended. Yet Jesus sought mercy for those responsible.

Biblical forgiveness is not measured by the absence of pain, but by our willingness to relinquish personal vengeance and seek another's good. The consequences of sin may linger long after forgiveness has been extended. As you read the account of Christ's crucifixion, consider what his example teaches us about forgiveness amid suffering.

Read Luke 23:32–38

What was Jesus enduring when he prayed, “Father, forgive them”?

What does his prayer teach us about the relationship between forgiveness and the continuing effects of another's sin?

How might Christ's example encourage someone who has forgiven an offender but still experiences pain when remembering the offense?

Prayer Heavenly Father, teach us to measure forgiveness by your Word rather than our feelings. Give us grace to relinquish vengeance and seek the good of those who have wronged us, even when painful memories remain. Amen.

<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>

Q#13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

Adults: Try writing out the answer with no prompts. Go as far as you can. If you need to peek, go ahead. Then try again until it becomes easier.

Parents: Ask your child if they have questions about the answer. Say it three times together in a comfortable rhythm, then pray for God to help you understand this truth.

FRIDAY- CATECHISM PRACTICE AND REVIEW

Use today for strengthening what you have practiced throughout the week. Do not worry if you cannot remember the answer perfectly at first. Try to recall as much as you can, use the helps provided, then try again. Memory grows through repeated, prayerful practice. Parents, engage your children by asking them to “help” you remember.

Fill in the blanks:

Q#13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first _____, being left to the _____ of their own _____, fell from the _____ wherein they were created, by sinning against _____.

First-letter prompt:

Q#13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. O____ f____ p_____, b____ l____ t____ t____ f____ o____ t____ o____
w____, f____ f____ t____ e____ w____ t____ w____ c_____, b____ s_____
a____ G_____.

Write it from memory (attempt 1):

Write it from memory (attempt 2):

Look Back: Long-term memory grows through review. After practicing this week’s question, go back and review **Q# 5 and Q# 13** from previous weeks. Try to recite each answer from memory before looking. If you need help, read it once, then cover it and try again.

This Week In Focus

Today

Second Sunday Discussion – 15 minutes after worship ends

Small Group Study – “Your Walk With God is a Community Project” – 4-6pm at the Pauley’s

Friday, October 16

Ladies Fellowship – 6:30pm, at the church.

Sunday, October 18

Praying for Prodigals – 8:30am in the pastor’s office

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 27

Medicare & More: Information Presentation – 7:00pm, at the church – Financial advisor Damian Smith with Set Apart Investing will share financial planning tips.

Saturday, November 7

Pie Luck – 6:00pm, at the church – Come have fun...invite a friend if you’d like!

Regular Rhythms of Grace

Sunday Small Group Study – “Your Walk With God is a Community Project” – 4-6pm weekly at the Pauley’s

First Friday Fellowship – 5:45pm – Location to be announced each month. The Pie Luck takes the place of this for November.

Ladies Study/Fellowship – Fridays (except the First Friday), 6:30-8:30pm – (2nd & 4th Fridays will be Study time, 3rd & 5th Fridays will be Fellowship), at the church - See Shannon or Sarah for details.

Second Sunday Discussion – 2nd Sunday, 15 minutes after worship ends – (Family-style conversations on a rotating topic.)

Second Saturday Men’s Breakfast – 2nd Saturday, 7:30am, at the church

Praying for Prodigals – 3rd Sunday, 8:30am in the pastor’s office

Don’t Forget

- If you would like to begin **the discipleship journey of the Turning Table**, ask any elder and the material will be provided. Simply read the book and/or listen to the podcasts, schedule a time to meet and discuss over coffee/tea, and then keep moving through the journey. You can start anytime.
- If you do not know **the address of any event, or the contact information for any event**, please contact either Pastor Adam at adam.lee@freegrace.us or Linda at the email address below.
- If you would like to be **added to our church-family email** where you can keep in touch through the week, please email Linda at linda.morris@freegrace.us

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory