



Singing the Whole Story

Hymnfest

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH
SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN
OCTOBER 6, 2013
6:00 PM

“It’s All About Grace”

Welcome

Prayer

We give you thanks, our Father, for you have enabled us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. You have rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of your beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We praise you that Jesus is the image of You, the invisible God, and is the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. We thank you that Jesus is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. Receive our praise, and the offering of our lives through our worship, we pray – in the blessed name Jesus who reigns forever and ever. Amen

Let us stand as we worship the King.

*Hymn	“O Worship the King” (ORGAN)	#2 (1-4) (PP)
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The Grace of Creation

A Litany of Praise Ps. 104:1-4

Praise the LORD, my soul.

LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.

He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

*Hymn	“God of Wonders” (WT)	#4
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Scripture Gen. 3:8-9, 20-21

We tend to think that Jesus introduced grace. But grace appeared as early as Genesis, following the fall of Adam and Eve.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

In the midst of the darkness of sin, in the face of the guilt caused by sin, God covered His children.

Hymn	“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness” (ORGAN)	#38 (1-3)
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The Promise of the Grace

The Old Testament clearly demonstrates that God continued to offer grace to his people, because He promised to be faithful to them. The Old Testament ends, in fact, with a reassuring promise of more grace still to come. Let us read the promise responsively.

Scripture	Malachi 4:1-6
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“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them.

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty.

“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

So God’s people hoped and longed for the Messiah.

Hymn	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (ORGAN)	#61 (1,2,6)
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The Arrival of Grace

So God responded, once again, in grace. Let us read responsively.

Scripture	John 1:10-14
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He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #80 (PP)
(ORGAN)

A Ministry of Grace

Jesus was a picture of grace.

Scripture Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Hymn “Jesus Heard With Deep Compassion” #127
(ORGAN)

The Passion and Exaltation of Grace

Having lived and ministered with grace, Jesus faced his time of suffering and death with grace. Hear how the Apostle John described it.

Scripture John 13:1-21 (Power Point)

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”⁷ Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”⁸ “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part

with me.”⁹ “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

¹⁰ Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.”¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

¹⁸ “I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’ ¹⁹ “I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. ²⁰ Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

²¹ After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

19:28-30

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hymn	“Meekness and Majesty” (ORGAN-WT)	#157
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Prayer

Let us pray in unison the prayer following the hymn.

God of glory, in a world drawn to so many lesser visions of glory, teach us the greater glory of Jesus, who did not grasp power, who was obedient to death, who did not despise the lowly, who stooped to wash his disciples’ feet; Then help us to be formed into the likeness of Jesus. Help us to do nothing out of selfish ambition, to seek the interests of others, to love our enemies, to be servants of your peace. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Then came the morning! Jesus full majesty dawned on the world with the rising of the Son! So Let us rise as we celebrate the great Easter of our lives.

*Hymn	“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (ORGAN)	#182 (1,2,4)
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*Affirmation	“Jesus Our Hope”	#201
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*Hymn	“Crown Him with Many Crowns” (ORGAN)	#223 (1,2,3) (PP)
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Life in the Spirit – Living with Grace

Not only are we saved by grace, but we live by and in the power of grace. Let us affirm and commit to living lives of grace as we read responsively #263.

Affirmation	“Joining the Mission of God”	#263
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As we sing of Jesus’ great compassion, please note that Women sing verse 3 and men sing verse 4.

Hymn	“The Servant Song” (ORGAN-WT)(Women vs. 3 & Men vs. 4)	#309 (PP)
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Prayer

With the Psalmist we pray “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.” We thank you, Lord, that you never call upon us to do something you have not equipped us to do. We can bless you – we can live lives of praise. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.” To that end we re-dedicate our lives – in the name and for the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

Hymn	“Ten Thousand Reasons” (ORGAN-WT)	#559 (PP)
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Living with Trust in Grace

If we are saved by grace, and live by grace, we can trust that grace is sufficient for all the moments and circumstances of our days. Through the words of the Heidelberg Catechism, found in #24, let us affirm our trust.

Affirmation	“God as Creator and Provider”	#24
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Hymn	“God of Our Life” (ORGAN)	#404 (PP)
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The Hope of Grace

As John Newton wrote, “’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.” In that spirit, we embrace the hope of grace not only for the present but for our future as well. Nowhere is this hope more clearly expressed than in Revelation 21. Using #486 let us read responsively.

Scripture	Rev. 21:1-4	#486
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Hymn	“Sing to the King” (WT)	#474
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Knowing our King sits upon the throne of grace, we can approach Him to find mercy and grace in our time of need. I invite you to share in prayer by turning to #886 and responding and singing as indicated.

Prayer #884 & 886

I invite you to rise as we sing and confess our faith in Christ alone.

*Hymn "In Christ Alone" #770 (PP)
(ORGAN)

*Benediction Eph. 4:1b-6 #937

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

*Response "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace" #938
(ORGAN-WT)