

Service of the Word

5th Sunday after Trinity

July 9th, 2023



Grac**ε**
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

GATHERING

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you **and also with you.**
This is the day which the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN Crown him with many crowns Words: M Bridges; Music: GJ Elvey

Crown Him with many crowns, / The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns / All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing / Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king / Through all eternity.
Crown Him the Lord of life! / Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious in the strife / For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, / Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, / And lives that death may die.
Crown Him the Lord of peace, / Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, / And all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, / And round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of glory now extend / Their fragrance ever sweet.
Crown Him the Lord of Love: / Behold His hands and side;
Rich wounds yet visible above / In beauty glorified:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! / For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail / Throughout eternity.

Opening Prayer

**Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to
free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silence is kept and then the Collect (Prayer for the Day), is prayed.

Collect Prayer (Fifth Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Saying Sorry to God

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

**God our Father, long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son, and bring us
to heavenly joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PSALM 119 Words: Lee Ann Vermeulen-Roberts; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551 arr. Elco Voss

Happy are those who heed the word of God,
Who seek to do no evil or injustice.
They are the Lord's, and they respect his laws,
For He is just and all his ways are wondrous.
His path is right, his word makes us strong.
Help us, o Lord, to follow your commandments.

Lord, deal with me and teach me to obey.
Your righteousness, your perfect laws delight me.
Sometimes I'm lost, I wander and I stray;
Come take me home, my shepherd; walk beside me.
I will delight in everything you say.
Search me, o God; your word will always guide me.

With all my heart, with all my strength, Lord, I will obey You.
With all my heart, with all my strength, Lord, I will obey You.
With all my heart, with all my strength, Lord, I will obey You.
With all my heart, with all my strength, Lord, I will obey You.
For He is just and all his ways are wondrous.
His path is right, his word makes us strong.
Help us, o Lord, to follow your commandments.

Old Testament Reading Zechariah 9:9-12 (NIV)

The coming of Zion's king

9:⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle-bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN I heard the voice of Jesus say

Words: H Bonar; Music: R Vaughan Williams

I heard the voice of Jesus say: / "Come unto Me and rest.
Lay down thou weary one, lay down / thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, / weary and worn and sad.
I found in Him a resting place, / and He has made me glad.
I heard the voice of Jesus say: / "Behold I freely give
the living water, thirsty one, / stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus and I drank / Of that life giving stream.
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived / And now I live in Him.
I heard the voice of Jesus say: / "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto Me, the morn shall rise / And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus and I found / In Him my Star, my Sun.
And in that light of life I'll walk / Till travelling days are gone

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (NIV)

The challenge of the times and rest for the weary

11:¹⁶ Jesus said to the crowd, "To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: ¹⁷ "'We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds." ²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them

to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. ²⁷ All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HYMN O Love that will not let me go

Words: George Matheson; Music: Albert Lister Peace

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

INTERCESSIONS

Prayers are offered, and this response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

The prayers may end with:

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your
Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

NOTICES

SONG There ain't no grave

Words & Music: Claude Ely, Molly Skaggs, Jonathan and Melissa Helser

Oh, shame is a prison as cruel as a grave
Shame is a robber and he's come to take my name
Oh, love is my redeemer / Lifting me up from the ground
Love is the power when my freedom song is found

Chorus There ain't no grave / Gonna hold my body down
 There ain't no grave / Gonna hold my body down
 When I hear that trumpet sound
 I'm gonna rise up outta the ground
 There ain't no grave / Gonna hold my body down

Oh, fear is a liar with a smooth and velvet tongue
Fear is a tyrant / He's always telling me to run
Oh, love is a resurrection and love is a trumpet sound
Love is my weapon / I'm gonna take my giants down *Chorus*

Oh, there was a battle / A war between death and life
And there on a tree / The Lamb of God was crucified
And He went on down to hell / He took back every key
He rose up as a lion and He set all captives free

There ain't no grave / Could hold His body down
There ain't no grave / Could hold His body down
When He heard the trumpet sound / He rose up outta the ground
There ain't no grave / Could hold His body down
There ain't no grave / Could hold His body down

Oh, if you walked out of the grave, I'm walking too
If you walked out of the grave, I'm walking too (repeated)

Chorus

SHARING THE GRACE and GOING OUT TO SERVE

**All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all
evermore. Amen**

Let us bless the Lord: **thanks be to God.**
 **Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and
 everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church) brings together people who desire to know Jesus, follow Him and make Him known.

Our worship services and ministry in Groningen are made possible by people voluntarily offering their time, talents and financial support.

As God has blessed us, so we thank Him by giving accordingly.

To help support Grace Church, there is an opportunity to put an offering in the collection bags during the service or in the basket near the exit after the service.

It is also possible to donate by electronic transfer to

Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church), account: NL 67 RABO 03012946 23.

Morning worship is held in English on:

- **2nd Sundays**
 - Holy Communion (said) at **9:00 am**;
 - Morning Prayer or Service of the Word at **10:30 am**
- **4th Sundays** (Holy Communion) at **10:30 am**

Both at **St Maarten-langs-de-weg** (Oud Katholieke Kerk), Witte de Withstraat, 2, Groningen.

Evening services with the Martiniwijkgemeente (also in English) are on:

- **1st Sundays** (Sept-June, Evening Service of the Word) at **17:00** in the **Martinikerk**.

Grace web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>, and **Facebook** (Grace Church Groningen).

Chaplain: the Ven Sam Van Leer, Mon-Wed-Fri, chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Kramer; gracesafeguarding@gmail.com

Grace web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>, and **Facebook** (Grace Church Groningen).

Grace Church Forthcoming Services and Events:

- Sunday 13 August, 9:00: Grace Holy Communion (said), Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 13 August, 10:30: Grace Morning Prayer, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 27 August, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 3 September, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.
- Sunday 10 September, 9:00: Grace Holy Communion (said), Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 10 September, 10:30: Grace Morning Prayer, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 24 September, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.