

Holy Communion

Last Sunday before Advent

November 26th, 2023



The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you.**

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.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Christ calls us to live more like him and share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You are loving to all and your mercy is over all your creation:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your faithful servants bless your name and speak of the glory of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The absolution.

Gloria

Words and Music: Donna Adkins & Colin Mawby

Father, we love You / We worship and adore You
Glorify Your name in all the earth /
Glorify Your name / Glorify Your name
Glorify Your name in all the earth
Jesus, we love You ... Spirit, we love You ...

The Collect Prayer (Last Sunday before Advent – Christ the King)

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Shepherds and sheep

34:¹¹“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹²As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. ¹⁶I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. ²⁰“Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, ²²I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and

another. ²³I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.

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

SONG Your grace is enough Words & Music: Matt Maher

Great is Your faithfulness O God
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart
So remember Your people / Remember Your children
Remember Your promise / O God
Your grace is enough / Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me
Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along
Yeah Your grace is enough / Heaven reaches out to us
Your grace is enough for me
God I sing Your grace is enough / I'm covered in Your love
Your grace is enough for me for me

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV) *The Sheep and the Goats*
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you, O Lord.

25:³¹ Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison

and you came to visit me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' ⁴⁴They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' ⁴⁵He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' ⁴⁶Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

SONG Jesus, remember me Words & Music: Jacques Berthier (Taizé)

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.

Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

And at the end

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

The Peace

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Colossians 3.14,15

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **and also with you.**

Preparation of the Table

SONG Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
To renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity.
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;
May Your joy be seen in all I do—
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude,
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace.
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth;
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
Will be clear for all the world to see.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity. Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured may be
for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper
with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which
is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this,
as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead
with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we
proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your
kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Communion is shared.

After the post-communion prayer.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

NOTICES

HYMN Guide me, O thou great Redeemer Words: W Williams; Music: J Hughes

Guide me, O thou great redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore;
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer;
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Blessing

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God
almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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**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 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 services:

2nd Sundays, Holy Communion (said) at 9:00 am & Morning Prayer/Service of the Word at 10:30 am;

4th Sundays (Holy Communion) at 10:30 am,

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

Evening worship services:

1st Sundays at 17:00 in the **Martinikerk**, with the Martiniwijkgemeente.

Web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>;

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 Church Forthcoming Services and Events:

- Sunday 26 November, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 3 December, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.
- Sunday 10 December, 10:30: Grace Service of Lessons and Carols, Old Catholic Church.
- Monday 25 December, 10:30: All Age Grace Christmas Service (with Holy Communion), Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 7 January, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.
- Sunday 14 January, 9:00: Grace Holy Communion (said), Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 14 January, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.