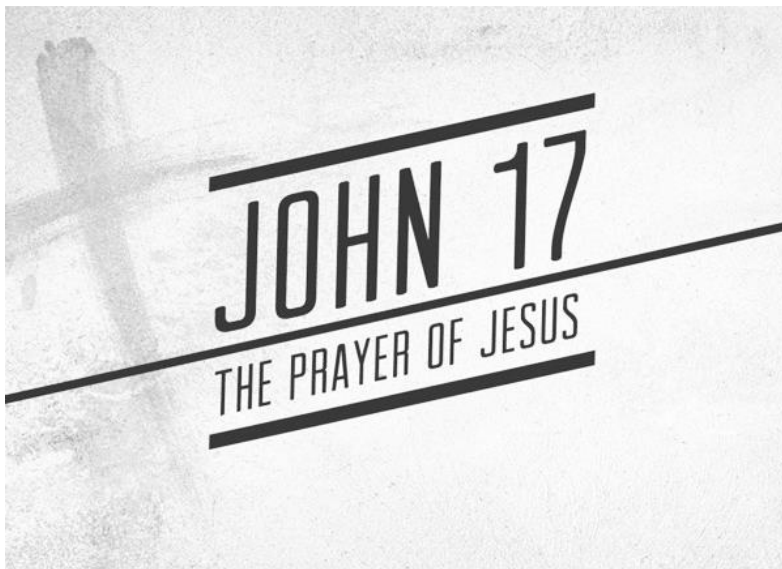


Service of the Word

7th Sunday of Easter

May 12th, 2024



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 (7th Sunday of Easter): O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything.

Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9,10

Lord Jesus, you suffered a cruel death on the cross for our redemption, yet we have forgotten your pain and stayed in the realm of the evil you defeated.

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

Lord Jesus, you were raised from death to bring us new life, yet we have preferred the comfort of the familiar, and the empty promises of a sinful world. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you have ascended to your Father and our Father, your God and our God; plead there at the right hand of God for our forgiveness and entry into the fullness of his presence.

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

Absolution.

SONG All who are thirsty Words & Music: Brenton Brown & Glenn Robertson

All who are thirsty / All who are weak
Come to the fountain / Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow / Be washed away
In the waves of his mercy / As deep cries out to deep

Refrain Come Lord Jesus come / Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come

2nd Refrain Holy Spirit come / Holy Spirit come / Holy Spirit come
As deep cries out to deep

Acts Reading Acts 1:15-17; 21-26 (NIV/UK) *Matthias chosen to replace Judas*

1:¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, 'Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.' ²¹ 'Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.' ²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.' ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

Gospel Reading John 17:6-19 (NIV/UK) *Jesus prays for the disciples*

17:⁶ 'I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³ 'I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

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

SERMON

HYMN For the beauty of the earth Words: F.S. Peirpoint; Music: Conrad Kocher

For the beauty of the earth / For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth / Over and around us lies

Refrain Lord of all, to thee we raise / This our hymn of grateful praise

For the beauty of each hour / Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower / Sun and moon and stars of light

Refrain Lord of all, to thee we raise / This our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of human love / Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above / For all gentle thoughts and mild

Refrain Lord of all, to thee we raise / This our hymn of grateful praise

For thy church, that evermore / Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore / Her pure sacrifice of love.

Refrain Lord of all, to thee we raise / This our hymn of grateful praise

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.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, 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.**

SONG Jesus be the centre Words & Music: Michael Frye & Kathryn Scott

Jesus, be the centre / Be my source, be my light / Jesus
Jesus, be the centre / Be my hope, be my song / Jesus
Be the fire in my heart / Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live / Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, be my vision / Be my path, be my guide / Jesus

NOTICES

SONG Build Your Kingdom here Words & Music: Rend Collective

Come set Your rule and reign/ In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray/ Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope/ Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now/ We are Your church
We need Your pow'r in us

We seek Your kingdom first/ We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives/ For You're our joy and prize
To see the captives' hearts released/ The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause/ We are Your church
We pray revive this earth

Chorus Build Your kingdom here/ Let the darkness fear
 Show Your mighty hand/ Heal our streets and land
 Set Your church on fire/ Win this nation back
 Change the atmosphere/ Build Your kingdom here we pray

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r/ Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop/ Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this/ Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ/ We are Your church
We are the hope on earth

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.



Giving

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**.
Or with this QR code:





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** (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:

- Sunday 26 May, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 2 June, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.
- Sunday 9 June, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 23 June, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 14 July, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.

For info on Home Groups and Bible Study gatherings and other events, please do ask us!