Service of the Word

15th Sunday after Trinity

September 8th, 2024

Grace
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.

SONG **Lord I need you** Words & Music: Matt Maher

Lord I come, I confess / Bowing here, I find my rest
Without You, I fall apart / You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus: Lord, I need You, oh, I need You / Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord, I am free / Holiness is Christ in me *Chorus*

So teach my song to rise to You / When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay *Chorus*

You're my one defense, my righteousness / Oh God, how I need You
My one defense, my righteousness / Oh God, how I need You

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 (Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity) God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others; Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves; Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

May God, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***HYMN* Just as I am** Words: Charlotte Elliott; Music: A H Brown

Just as I am, without one plea, / But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, / O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears, within, without, / O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind,
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, / O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, / O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Hath broken every barrier down
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, / O Lamb of God, I come!

Epistle Reading: James 2:1-10, 14-17 (NIV)
Favouritism forbidden; Faith and Deeds

2:[1] My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus
Christ must not show favoritism. [2] Suppose a man comes into your
meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in
filthy old clothes also comes in. [3] If you show special attention to
the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you,"

but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by
my feet," [4] have you not discriminated among yourselves and
become judges with evil thoughts? [5] Listen, my dear brothers and
sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the
world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised
those who love him? [6] But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not
the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are
dragging you into court? [7] Are they not the ones who are
blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? [8] If you
really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as
yourself," you are doing right. [9] But if you show favoritism, you sin
and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. [10] For whoever keeps
the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of
breaking all of it. [14] What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if
someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith
save them? [15] Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and
daily food. [16] If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm
and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what
good is it? [17] In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not
accompanied by action, is dead.

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

Gospel Reading Mark 7:24-37 (NIV)

Jesus honours a gentile's faith and heals a deaf man

7:[24] Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered
a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep
his presence secret. [25] In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a
woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit
came and fell at his feet. [26] The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian
Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her
daughter. [27] "First let the children eat all they want," he told her,
"for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the
dogs." [28] "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the
children's crumbs." [29] Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may
go; the demon has left your daughter." [30] She went home and found
her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. [31] Then Jesus left
the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of
Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. [32] There some people
brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they
begged Jesus to place his hand on him. [33] After he took him aside,
away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears.

Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. [34] He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, *"Ephphatha!"* (which means "Be opened!"). [35] At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. [36] Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. [37] People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

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

SERMON

SONG The Servant Song Words & Music: Richard Gillard

Brother, sister, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, / we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together / of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;/ let me be as Christ to you;
pray that l may have the grace to / let you be my servant too.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?
We believe and trust in him.
Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?
We believe and trust in him.
Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?
We believe and trust in him.
This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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.

SONG **We labor unto glory** Words & Music: Craig Harris & Isaac Wardell

My God, my God, where e'er I go — glory.
Where I reap and where I sow — glory.
When my hand it grips the thorn — glory
In the still and in the storm — glory.

Refrain Oh, we labor unto glory
Till heaven and earth are one,
Oh, we labor unto glory
Until God's kingdom comes.

The sun it shines and then goes down — glory.
Rain, it pours and beats the ground — glory.
Dust, it blows and ends my days — glory.
Hearts they burn beneath Your gaze — glory. *Refrain*

My heart, my hands, they're kingdom bound — glory.
Where thorns no longer curse the ground — glory.
Trim the wick and light the flame — glory.
My work, it will not be in vain — glory. *Refrain*

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 *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.

Liturgical texts from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (London) © The Archbishops' Council 2000. All music covered under CCLI License # 639346 (Holy Trinity Church, Utrecht). Bible texts are quoted from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission.

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,** 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, Work days: 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).

Media privacy: please note that films or photos featuring others in worship and fellowship should not be taken or shared without the consent of those appearing in them.

Grace Church Forthcoming Services:

- Sunday 22 September, 10:30: **Grace Holy Communion**, Old Catholic Church, followed by celebration of 10th anniversary of Grace Church!
- Sunday 6 October, 17:00: **Grace & Martini International Service**, Martinikerk.
- Sunday 13 October, 10:30: **Grace Service of the Word**, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 27 October, 10:30: **Grace Holy Communion**, Old Catholic Church.

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