

Service of the Word

2nd Sunday before Lent

February 12th, 2023



Do not worry, trust in the Lord

Grac**e**
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

Seek ye first

Words & Music: H G Spafford & P Bliss

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God / And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu Alleluia

Chorus Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia

You shall not live by bread alone, / But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, Alleluia *Chorus*

Ask and it shall be given unto you / Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you. Allelu, Alleluia *Chorus*

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 (2nd bef Lent): Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

Amen.

Saying Sorry to God

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Malachi 4.2

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair.

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

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness.

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

Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying.

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

May the Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing; may the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; may the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

HYMN Thy Kingdom come, O God Words: L Hensley; Music: L.G. Hayne

Thy kingdom come, O God, / thy rule, O Christ, begin;
break with thine iron rod / the tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace / and purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease, / as in the realms above?

When comes the promised time / that war shall be no more,
and lust, oppression, crime / shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee, Lord, arise, / and come in thy great might;
revive our longing eyes, / which languish for thy sight.

Some scorn thy sacred name, / and wolves devour thy fold;
by many deeds of shame / we learn that love grows cold.

O'er lands both near and far / thick darkness broodeth yet:
arise, O morning star, / arise, and never set.

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:18-25 (NIV/UK)

Present suffering and future glory

8:¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV/UK)

Do not worry

6:²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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

SERMON

SONG Er is een dag

Words & Music: Nathan Fellingham (Dutch transl Peter van Essen)

Er is een dag, / waar al wat leeft al lang op wacht,
een dag van blijdschap, / als heel de schepping wordt bevrijd.
En op die dag, dan komt de Heer en haalt zijn bruid,
die rein en stralend / Opgaat in zijn heerlijkheid.

Er klinkt geschal, / wanneer de graven opengaan
en doden opstaan, voor eeuwig levend door zijn kracht.
Hun aardse tent wordt nu bekleed met heerlijkheid,
de dood verzwolgen, overwonnen voor altijd.

Spoedig zullen wij Hem zien / en voor altijd op Hem lijken
en Jezus kennen zoals Hij is, amen!

Nooit meer tranen, nooit meer pijn, want wij zullen met Hem leven
in zijn nabijheid, voor altijd. / Amen, amen!

Dus kijk omhoog en zie wat nog verborgen is,
maar wat beloofd is, dat blijft in alle eeuwigheid.
En als je lijdt, weet dat het maar voor even is.
Als Jezus terugkomt, deel je in zijn heerlijkheid

Spoedig zullen wij Hem zien / en voor altijd op Hem lijken
en Jezus kennen zoals Hij is, amen!

Nooit meer tranen, nooit meer pijn, want wij zullen met Hem leven
in zijn nabijheid, voor altijd. / Amen, amen!

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 The River is here

Words & Music: Andy Park

Down the mountain, the river flows
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes
Through the valleys and over the fields
The river is rushing and the river is here

Chorus The river of God sets our feet a-dancing
 The river of God fills our hearts with cheer
 The river of God fills our mouths with laughter
 And we rejoice for the river is here

The river of God is teeming with life
And all who touch it can be revived
And those who linger on this river's shore
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord *Chorus*

Up to the mountain, we love to go
To find the presence of the Lord
Along the banks of the river, we run
We dance with laughter giving praise to the Son *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 (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.

Grace Church Forthcoming Services and Events:

- **Wednesday 22 February (and Wednesdays thereafter), 18:30: Alpha Course, SKLO Bldg, Kraneweg 33.**
- **Sunday 26 February, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Tuesday 28 February (and Tuesdays 7, 14, 21 & 28 March), 19:30: Spiritual Classics on Christian Disciplines Reading Group, in person & online, t.b.d.**
- **Sunday 5 March, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.**
- **Sunday 12 March, 9:00: Grace Holy Communion (said), Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 12 March, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 12 March, 12:30: Grace Church Annual Meeting, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 26 March, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.**