

Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 26th, 2022



Grac**e**
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Greeting

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

SONG All I Once Held Dear

Words & Music: Graham Kendrick

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this

Chorus Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love You Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness *Chorus*

Oh to know the power of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death, my Lord
So with You to live and never die *Chorus*

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 himself carried up our sins in his body to the tree, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. *1 Peter 2.24*

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples. We ask for your mercy and your help.

When we take our ease rather than watch with you:
Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we bestow a kiss of peace yet nurse enmity in our hearts: Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we strike at those who hurt us rather than stretch out our hands to bless: Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we deny that we know you for fear of the world and its scorn: Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

The absolution.

The Collect Prayer (Fifth Sunday of Lent [Passion Sunday])

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NIV) *The valley of the dry bones*
37:¹ The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'Sovereign Lord, you alone know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'" ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army. ¹¹ Then he said to me: 'Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is

gone; we are cut off.”¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.”

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

Gospel: John 11:28-45 (NIV) *Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

11:²⁸After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. ‘The Teacher is here,’ she said, ‘and is asking for you.’²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.³⁴ ‘Where have you laid him?’ he asked. ‘Come and see, Lord,’ they replied.³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ Then the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’³⁷ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.³⁹ ‘Take away the stone,’ he said. ‘But, Lord,’ said Martha, the sister of the dead man, ‘by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.’⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?’⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.’⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud

voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'
⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

Sermon

SONG Be still for the presence of the Lord Words & Music: David Evans

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, / The Holy One is here.
Come, bow before Him now, / With reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, / We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, / The Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord / Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, / With splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, / Our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord / Is shining all around

Be still, for the power of the Lord / Is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, / To minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, / In faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord / Is moving in this place.

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

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace. *Ephesians 2.13,14*

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

HYMN **O sacred head, surrounded** Words: P Gerhardt; Music: JS Bach

O sacred head, surrounded / by crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding head, so wounded, / so shamed and put to scorn!
Death's pallid hue comes o'er thee, / the glow of life decays;
yet angel-hosts adore thee, / and tremble as they gaze.

Thy comeliness and vigour / is withered up and gone,
and in thy wasted figure / I see death drawing on.

O agony and dying! / O love to sinners free!

Jesu, all grace supplying, / turn thou thy face on me.

In this thy bitter passion, / good Shepherd, think of me
with thy most sweet compassion, / unworthy though I be:
beneath thy cross abiding / for ever would I rest,
in thy dear love confiding, / and with thy presence blest.

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 and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty. The power of the life-giving cross reveals the judgement that has come upon the world and the triumph of Christ crucified. He is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever, our advocate in heaven to plead our cause, exalting us there to join with angels and archangels, 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. Great is the mystery of faith:

**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, and music may be played.

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

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.

Blessing

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground
for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins
forgiven; 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.

+++++

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 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**.

Home Groups: On 3rd Sundays, many of us gather together for fellowship, Bible study and prayer in various homes. For details, ask the Home Group leaders.

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:

- **From Wednesday 22 February (and Wednesdays thereafter), 18:30: Alpha Course, SKLO Bldg, Kraneweg 33.**
- **From 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 2 April, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.**
- **Easter Sunday 9 April, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 16 April, 10:00: Service of Baptism, Tehuisgemeente, Willem Lodewijk Gymnasium, Verzetsstrijderslaan 220, 9727 CK Groningen.**
- **Sunday 23 April, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 7 May, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.**
- **Sunday 14 May, 9:00: Grace Holy Communion (said), Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 14 May, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 28 May, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.**