

# Monitoring Your Heartbeat

Stewardship – October 22, 2023

Grace Lutheran Church



Gathering around GRACE –  
Growing with GRACE –  
Going with GRACE.

**Stewardship**  
**October 22,**  
**2023**



## Monitoring Your Heartbeat

#1: A Re-Created Heart  
#2: A Contented Heart  
Last week: A Cleaned-Servant Heart  
**Today: A Kingdom-minded Heart**



**Today we continue our focus on Christian giving and serving and living in response to God's love for us. A heart that beats with the GRACE of God, a heart ruled by the kingdom of God, also will be mindful of the earthly kingdom we are called to serve in.**

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP –

*See the inside cover of the hymnal for prayers*

### PATH OF WORSHIP –

*This service folder or on the screen.*

### MUSIC –

#749 / #619 / # 676 / #751 Psalm 96

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Yorba Linda, CA 92886  
Gracelutheran.church – 714-779-2394

Pastor Phillip Sievert – 720-364-1002

Accompanist: Karen Schram

**Welcome guests** – we are happy to have you here with us today. Sometimes attending a church for a first time can be intimidating. Things that will help you:

**Our service** this morning is in this folder. You are invited to join the other worshippers by reading the bold-faced responses. Songs are either in this folder or found in the blue song book (hymnal) located in the book rack ahead of you.

**A Cry Room** is available for parents who need a quiet place to calm a baby or young child. That room is located in the back corner on the side of the windows.

**Bathrooms** are across the breezeway just inside the Grace Hall entryway.

**After worship** – would you leave your contact information so we can follow up and see if you have any questions? There is a folder just inside the entryway. We would love to share a treat or cup of coffee with you in our fellowship area afterwards as well. Please join us.



L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **CONFESSION OF SINS** *(from Psalm 51)*

**All: Have mercy on me, O God, According to your unfailing love.**

**Wash away all my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.**

**For I know my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.**

**All: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;**

**A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**Create in me a pure heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**Do not cast me from your presence Or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways, And sinners will turn back to you.**

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING**

Daniel 1:3-11

*Daniel and his friends lived for the King of kings, by using their talents for a new kingdom.*

<sup>3</sup>Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— <sup>4</sup>young men without any physical defect,



handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king’s palace...

<sup>6</sup>Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup>The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

<sup>8</sup>But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. <sup>9</sup>Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, <sup>10</sup>but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you...”

<sup>15</sup>At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup>So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

<sup>17</sup>To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

<sup>18</sup>At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup>The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. <sup>20</sup>In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. <sup>21</sup>And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

L. The Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 96

## SECOND READING

Romans 13:1-7

*The authorities of earthly kingdoms are God’s servants. We give what we owe them.*

<sup>1</sup>Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that  
<sup>4</sup>which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by



God. <sup>2</sup>Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup>For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup>For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

<sup>6</sup>This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup>Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

L. The Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

## **Seek Ye First the Kingdom Of God**

## **SERMON**

## **Monitor Your Heartbeat – A Kingdom-minded heart *based on Matthew 22:15-22***

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup>They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup>Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

<sup>18</sup>But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup>and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

<sup>21</sup>“Caesar’s,” they replied.

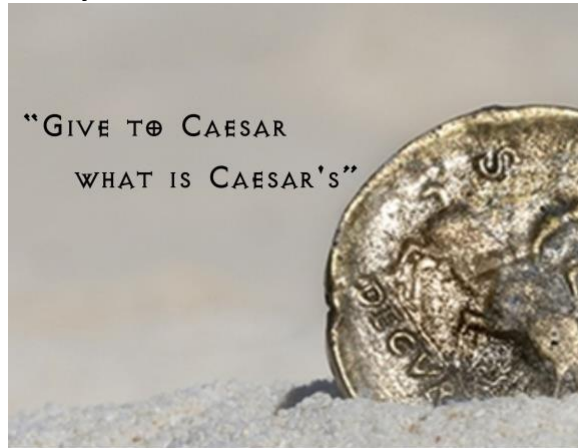


Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

<sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**



## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

### **GATHERING OF THE OFFERING**

*Guests, please do not feel obligated to give an offering today. The Lord wants us to give with a cheerful heart. The members of Grace bring their offerings to God in grateful response to his love. These offerings support the proclaiming of the good news about Jesus, both here and around the world.*

*After the offering, please stand as we make our prayer to God who promises to hear and answer our prayer.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. Accept our gifts and offerings, our worship and praise, as we come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for the kingdom of your grace that rules our hearts in Christ and in thankfulness for our nation and its people.



**We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and serve you without fear.**

You have enriched us with the bounties of business and factory, the beauty of oceans and mountains, and the marvels of medicine, science and technology.

**For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.**

Look with favor upon our nation and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

**Give us a willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.**

Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic. Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

**Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.**

Hear our prayers for areas of the world that are caught up in war and hatred, especially the people of Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, and those living throughout Africa. We pray that you have mercy on our world and bring its conflicts to a swift end. Protect those in danger. Comfort those in loss. Heal the wounds inflicted and build up again what has been laid waste. We bow to your will and hold fast to your promise that you are ruling the kingdoms of this world for the welfare of those who love you.

**May your kingdom of grace come to human hearts, through Jesus Christ, the Savior of all. Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead**



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**us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

*2 Corinthians 13:11; Romans 12:16; Psalm 100:2; Numbers 6:24-26*

**L:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**