

The Time in Between is the Time to Stand

Grace Lutheran Church

Yorba Linda, California

October 29, 2023



*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace
in Yorba Linda, California, the land of gracious living*

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Welcome

- ✚ If you would like to know more about Grace, visit our **website** at gracelutheran.church. A **membership** class, a class that covers the basic teachings of the Bible and what it means to be a Christian is beginning TODAY after church. Contact Pastor Sievert for more information. We would also love to share information with you about our Sunday worship services, our weekly Bible Classes, and our youth programs.
- ✚ Restrooms are across the breezeway, in our Grace Hall... a cry room is available in the back left corner of our church.
- ✚ Coffee and treats are available after church. We would love to visit with you and answer your questions.

“Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”

- Martin Luther

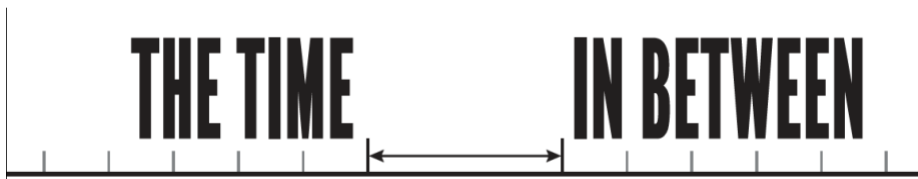


*Grace Lutheran Church
is a member of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
and California Lutheran High School*



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Martin Luther loved the Psalms, and it is in the Psalms where the Holy Spirit led him to discover the Gospel and to find the strength to stand firm for the Gospel.



In the great timeline of human history, there are only two ultimately significant points: the first time Jesus Christ came to our world to win our salvation; and the second time when He will come to make all things new. We live in the time between those two points (sometimes referred to as the End Times) and while we have peace in Jesus in our hearts, it is a time of tension and trouble in our world.

As the church year draws to a close over the next few weeks, the Bible encourages us to watch and wait and live in the time in between. Today, on Reformation Sunday, when we remember how God preserves his Church, Scripture teaches us that:

The Time in Between is a Time to Stand Strong

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

REFORMATION DIALOGUE *Responsive prayer based on the psalms*

L: Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

C: **He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.**

L: The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

C: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

L: Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

C: I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths; O Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.

L: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

FIRST READING

Romans 3:19--28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Martin Luther used this Psalm as the inspiration to the Reformation anthem: A Mighty Fortress. It is God's grace that allows us to "Be Still" and stand firm.



God Is Our Refuge (Psalm 46) sung by the choir

*God is our refuge and strength; a present help in time of trouble,
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
Though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear.*

*Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God.
He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth.
He is the Word, He is the Way, He will lead us. He is the Truth, He is the Life.
A Fortress mighty is He – in all the earth!*

*Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God.
He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth.
Be still and know that he is God. He is exalted. He is the Truth. He is the Life;
A Fortress mighty is He – in every age!*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Alleluia. (Luke 12:32)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 10:16-23

¹⁶ “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹ “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³ When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

After the Gospel the worship leader says,

L. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise be to you, O Christ.

SERMON based on **Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23**

¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹²So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. ¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Martin Luther wanted people to be active in worship, not bystanders, so he put much of the service to music as he found it a great way to teach the truths of Scripture. This hymn, set to new music, summarizes the Nicene Creed. During the Reformation it was generally sung after the sermon.

OFFERING

Moved by the good news of salvation that is ours in Christ, we freely, cheerfully and generously give so the gospel of Jesus might continue to be shared. Visitors, we invite you to participate in this act of worship but please don't feel obligated to give. God's Word makes it clear that we are not to give under compulsion but out of love and thankfulness for God's love for us. You are our gift and a gift to God today.

The Reformation motto is covered in this prayer... we are saved by

Grace Alone

through

Faith Alone

By

God's Word Alone

In Christ Alone.

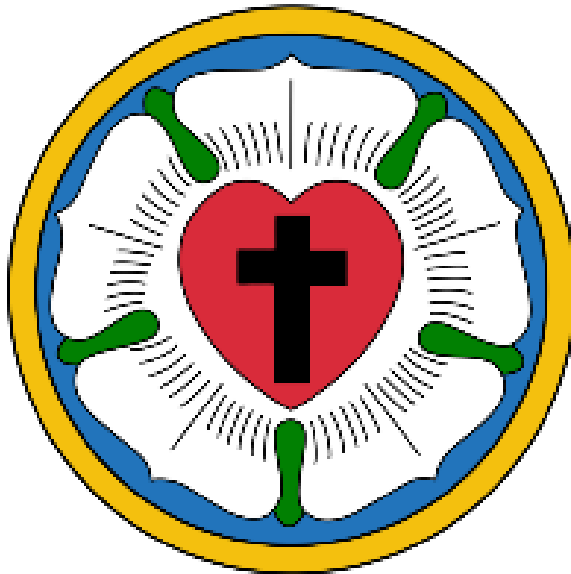
LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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 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

M: 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.



While Martin Luther was a professor at Wittenberg, he devised his seal to express his theology. The following are his quotes from a letter to his friend, Herr Spengler, town clerk of Nuremberg. This seal is what our neighbors see in the cupola above our entry way.

† A Black Cross †

“...within the heart reminds me that faith in Christ crucified saves me.”

♥ Heart ♥

“Although the cross is black, mortified and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart, does not destroy nature, i.e., does not kill, but keeps alive. The just shall live by faith!”

🌹 Rose 🌹

“The heart is fixed upon the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation, and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits.”

V-I-V-I-T

“The letters of the word VIVIT (Latin for ‘he lives’) are written on the petals of the rose. Because Christ lives, I too shall live.”

Blue Sky

“The rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed.”

Gold Circle

“Around this is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal. Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto eternal life.”