

Hello, Gracers! This Sunday as our church body worships with faith at home rather than all together in our sanctuary, we wanted to provide you with our Grace worship resources.

## Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Announcements:** Insert a Dad-joke (ala Troy D.) or reflection (ala Sheryl M.) or another favorite intro here.

An example Dad joke might be: I was carrying a nine-foot book the other day. A woman asked me what I was doing. I said, "Oh, it's a long story."

An example reflection might be: Everyone take a deep breath in...and out. One more time with Hebrews 13:8 Breathing in ("Jesus Christ is the same") ...Breathing out ("yesterday and today and forever").

Watch your email and follow our [Grace Covenant facebook page](#) to keep up-to-date on Grace Happenings.

## Call to Worship: Psalm 143:8-10

Psalm 143:8-10 New International Version (NIV)

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
for to you I entrust my life.  
Rescue me from my enemies, Lord,  
for I hide myself in you.  
Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground.

## Worship with Song (click links for video)

\*\* pro-tip: click the links in advance to let the ads run through then pause the video so you're ready to worship.

[Holy Spirit](#)

[Breathe](#)

[King of My Heart](#)

[Same Power](#)

## Pray for the offering

Heavenly Father. We thank you for your mercy and grace. We ask you to bless our home worship this week. Lord we pray you will use these weeks to build your kingdom. Help us to love You even more and to love each other and to love others well. Help us, Lord, to love our neighbors in practical ways. Please use the offering of your church to accomplish your work in the world. Amen.

Giving Options (we have some cushion, but thank you for continuing as you are able to help fund utilities and salary and outreach and helpfulness): [Give Online at this link](#). Or electronically through your bank. Or mail a check to 3030 Broadway North, Fargo, ND 58102.

## Offering Song (click link for video)

[We the Kingdom – Holy Water](#)

## Pray for the reading of the word

Lord we ask you to fill us with your Holy Spirit and open our ears to listen well to your Word. Help us to not just hear your Word, but to seek to understand Your message and to live it out as Your people. Sanctify us by the truth, Lord; Your word is truth (John 17:17). Amen.

## Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 36:22-32

Ezekiel 36:22-32 New International Version (NIV)

“Therefore say to the Israelites, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.

“‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign Lord. Be ashamed and

disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel!

## Message from Pastor Cal: “Is It Possible?”

[Click this link to watch Pastor Cal’s message on our website.](#)  
(the video is also on YouTube)

He also asks us to watch a ‘hammer video’ during the early part of his message:  
[Click this link to watch that clip.](#)

## Prayers of the People:

*Please email your next requests to [office@gracecovenantfm.org](mailto:office@gracecovenantfm.org) or call any LT member so we can update the list for next week.*

**40 Days Through God’s Story:** Please pray that our hearts will be open to hear God’s truth and that we will fall more in love with Jesus.

**Meredith:** I will be having surgery Tuesday (3/31) to remove a tumor in my brain that is affecting my vision related to the previous tumor in the same area. I am feeling calm about things but ask that you will pray that I can be completely peaceful and for the Lord to guide Dr Jackson’s hands. I am grateful for each of you and all God has done for me on this journey. I know that I am in His hands.

**Christina:** Possible ankle fracture (xray to confirm mid-week) Crutches and boot for six weeks. Confirmed blood clot and blood thinners and lots of pain. Praying for pain relief and clear xray and next steps.

**Suz:** son Don had massive heart attack. Is at Sanford with no visitors allowed. Praying for healing, peace, comfort, and doctor’s wisdom in treatment.

**Cal:** pray for my friend just diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

**Swensen Family:** Please continue to pray for all the Swensen family during this time of grief for comfort and peace for all the family.

**Laura:** Please pray for my Dad – he’s back in the hospital. Had another surgery Saturday morning, next surgery is Monday (3/30) with another specialist one of his previous surgical sites isn’t healing correctly. Likely in the hospital for another 10 days. It’s REALLY hard for him not to have any family around. For Dad and Mom both for reduced stress, increased peace, relief of depression, encounters with Jesus our Prince of Peace.

Please pray for my friends the Voss family. It’s been 4 years since their little boy died and the grief is hitting hard this year. May God comfort them and give them peace.

**Redeemed Covenant families:** many have lost jobs and wages due to virus response. Pray that rent and needs can be met. For new job opportunities. For Pastor Evariste – for good sleep, and health, and Holy Spirit power to minister during especially stressful times.

**New Life Center:** Please pray the virus will not enter and infect anyone sheltering or working at the New Life Center. They are housing 100+men, many are particularly vulnerable to the virus due to underlying conditions. Praying they will be able to meet increased funding needs (equipment, food, staffing) even as funding sources like the Thrift store are closed and the Fargo Marathon delayed. That they will continue to be able to provide take-out meals to non-guests daily.

**Linda:** Please pray for Linda as she moved to Mankato on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. We pray that God will bless her in her new home with new friends and a church to call home as well. We pray that her previous co-workers at Family Fare and in her apartment building will encounter another who will encourage them to turn to Jesus.

**Steve A:** Please pray for Steve’s Dad as he recovers from a fall. Please also pray for Sheila’s sister, Colleen who is still very fragile and now not sleeping for healing.

**Diana:** Please pray for the kids at the detention center.

### Prayers Related to COVID-19:

Please pray for all those who have the COVID-19 Virus for strength and healing. That the virus can be contained as much as possible. For health care workers. For those preparing treatment and testing sites. For government officials and law enforcement. For teachers and parents. For those missing paychecks. For retirees. For those that manufacture and deliver and sell needed items. For those developing tests and vaccines and treatments. For those suffering domestic violence where home is not a safe place. That we will be filled with the Holy Spirit. That God will give us wisdom. That we will have hearts to be helpful and meet needs wisely. That our trust in Jesus be strengthened in these uncertain times.

### Pray Together: (Hymnal #920 from St. Francis of Assisi)

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is gladness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much

seek to be consoled, as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

it is in dying that we are born into eternal life. Amen.

**Hymn:** [There is a Redeemer](#) (Click for video, See picture on last page for Hymnal Page #75)

There Is A Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's Own Son,  
Precious Lamb Of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

Thank You Oh My Father,  
For Giving Us Your Son,  
And Leaving Your Spirit,  
'Til The Work On Earth Is Done.

Jesus My Redeemer,  
Name Above All Names,  
Precious Lamb Of God, Messiah,  
Oh, For Sinners Slain.

*(continued on next page...)*

Thank You Oh My Father,  
For Giving Us Your Son,  
And Leaving Your Spirit,  
'Til The Work On Earth Is Done.

When I Stand In Glory,  
I Will See His Face,  
And There I'll Serve My King Forever,  
In That Holy Place.

Thank You Oh My Father,  
For Giving Us Your Son,  
And Leaving Your Spirit,  
'Til The Work On Earth Is Done.

### **Benediction from Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV):**

Now may the God of peace,  
who through the blood of the eternal covenant  
brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,  
equip you with everything good for doing his will,  
and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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### **Grace-In-Action: Our challenge this week is to make some phone calls.**

- Call two other Gracers this week. Maybe someone in your small group or ministry team. Then maybe someone God brings to mind.
- Make an additional call to a neighbor to check-in and see how things are going.

Help our church family encourage one another and love one another well. Check on needs. Offer to pray as you and they are comfortable.

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**Grace in Practice: practicing together with ALL AGES the different ways we can live out our everyday faith**

We are in a new week for our 40 Days Through God's Story.  
(See the [Gospel Story by Memory page under Events/40 Days God's Story](#)).

1) **Review the Gospel Story Actions:** God Rules – We Sin – God Promises – Jesus Rescues – We Answer.... And now this week we are learning that God Gives. The action is to raise both hands up in the air and wiggle your fingers like rain while you bring your hands to your shoulders.

When we follow Jesus,

- God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us obey God and help us love Jesus more and more.
- God gives us the Bible to tell His story and guide our lives.
- He gives us the church family for encouragement.

2) **Share the story of Pentecost:** This is a Bible story about the first time God gave the Holy Spirit as a helper to live inside ALL his disciples – it was a day we call Pentecost.

Read Acts 2:1-13 about how the Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Read Acts 2:14-41 about Peter's first message empowered by the Holy Spirit

Storybook Style From the Laugh and Learn Bible for Kids by Paul Vischer pg 293-297 "God's Super Helper"

For Jesus friends, there was good news and bad news.

The good news: Jesus was alive!

The bad news: Jesus was leaving.

Now it was up to them to spread the word about God's kingdom. As soon as Jesus told them this, He disappeared into the sky. But there was still more news – good news AND bad news.

More good news: He promised to send them a Helper!

More bad news: they had no idea who that Helper was or how He would help them.

And worse, Jesus' friends were scared. The Jewish leaders – the Sadducees and the Pharisees – had arrested Jesus. *What if they decided to arrest Jesus' friends too?*

All of Jesus' friends were meeting together to pray. They were trying not to attract too much attention, so they wouldn't get in trouble. One day passed. Then two days. Then three. There was no sign of the "Helper" that Jesus had promised them. Four days passed. Five days. Six days. Nothing. And then...

BOOM! It was the tenth day since Jesus had left, and all His friends were praying together in one big room. Suddenly a sound like a huge wind filled the house! It was pretty weird. But then things got even WEIRDER. Little flames of fire – not actual fire, but something that looked like fire – appeared in the air and came down over each one of their heads while they prayed! It was the HOLY SPIRIT! The Spirit of God! *Remember when Jesus was baptized?* Something that looked like a dove came down from the sky and rested on Jesus. It was the Spirit of God, coming to show that

God's power was with Jesus. And now that same thing was happening to Jesus' friends. These little flames of fire were a sign that God's power was now with each one of them!

*What kind of power?* Well, the first thing that happened was that everyone in the room began speaking in different languages – languages they didn't even know! This was really helpful, because Jews who spoke many different languages were visiting Jerusalem that week from all over the Roman world. Suddenly all these visitors heard Jesus' friend speaking to them in their own language! Then the Holy Spirit gave Jesus' disciple Peter the power to stand up and speak an amazing message about who Jesus was. After Peter proclaimed the good news that day, nearly 3,000 people who heard him speak became followers of Jesus! Suddenly, Jesus' disciples, the same ones who had been hiding together to stay out of trouble, were bravely talking about Jesus all over Jerusalem.

"Stop talking about Jesus or we'll arrest you too!" the Sadducees and Pharisees threatened. But the disciples didn't care. Filled with God's power, they were now the bravest people on earth! This wasn't the first time God's Spirit had filled someone with power. Kings like Saul and David had been filled with the Spirit of God. And some of Israel's judges and prophets were filled with God's power when there was a big job to do. But before now, only certain people at certain times were filled with the Spirit of God. And if they disobeyed God, like King Saul did, God's Spirit was taken away.

This was very different. Jesus didn't just send the Holy Spirit to help a few special people do a few special things. This was much better than that! Now, for the first time ever, God's Spirit and God's power were available to ALL of Jesus' friends. And not just for a little while. FOREVER.

Yep, Jesus changed EVERYTHING. He didn't leave His friends alone. Instead, He gave them a "superpower" – the power of the Holy Spirit – so they could go out and change the world.

**3) Learn and Remember this Story:** [to watch this story on a video for kids click this link](#)

#### **4) Family Connection: God's Super Helper. Acts 2**

**Tricky bits:** *Who is our Helper?*

*Remember the Trinity?* God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our Helper. When we give our hearts to Jesus, He puts His Holy Spirit inside us. The Holy Spirit helps us pray and helps us understand the bible. The Holy Spirit helps us love God and obey Him. When we need help, we can stop to listen or feel what He is saying or how He is leading us.

**Talk:**

- Why do you think God used fire to show His super power?
- How can you use God's super power in your life?



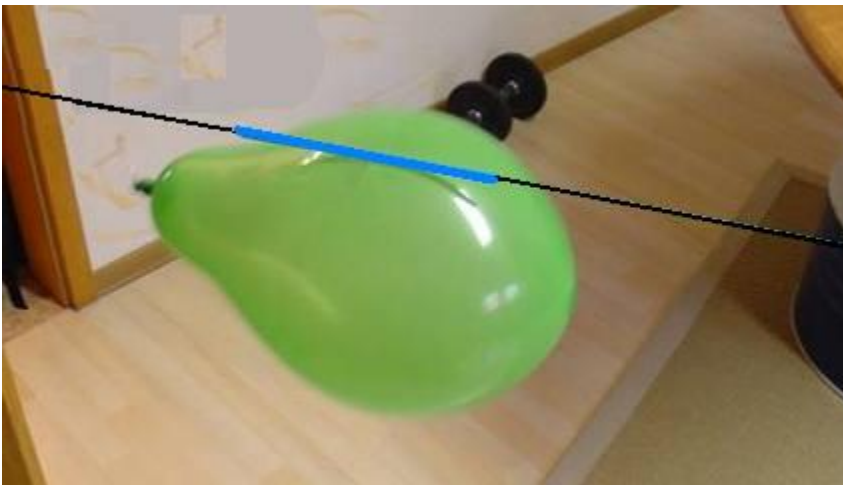
### Pray:

*Dear God, thank You for sending us a super Helper so that we never have to be alone. Help us to be followers of Jesus so we can be filled with Your super power. Help us to spread the good news of Your love and rescue plan! Amen.*

**Activity: Balloon Rocket** – you can't see the Holy Spirit – just like you can't see air but can feel the wind.

***If you happen to have these supplies at home, this activity might be a bit of fun: balloons, straws, long piece of string that fits through the straw and allows lots of movement, tape. Consider making a video of your creation and posting it in our Amazing Gracers private facebook group.***

## Balloon Rocket



← Unlike the picture...  
don't tie the balloon  
closed for this activity.

This balloon rocket whooshes across the room. How is this rocket with a balloon motor made? Take a small tube and thread it onto a rope. Stretch the rope across the room. If possible use a smooth rope with a smooth surface. Inflate the balloon and stick it to the tube with tape or masking tape. Let go of the balloon.

### Hints for youth club session:

You can give the children all the materials and get them to devise a way of getting the balloon from A to B in a straight a line as possible. It will be interesting to see if they can come up with the solution. Then maybe try balloon races.,,

### A spiritual tip:

- We can't see the Holy Spirit –just like air
- But if we become a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit still moves us into action and gives us strength even though we can't see Him.
- Without Jesus we are like a balloon without air.



## There Is a Redeemer

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D Em7/D D G/D D A D G A D A7

1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son;  
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names;  
 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face,

D Em7/D D G/D D Em/D D G G/B Asus A7 D

pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, ho - ly One.  
 pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, O for sin - ners slain.  
 there I'll serve my King for - ev - er in that ho - ly place.

*Refrain*  
 D D/F# G D G A D A

Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son, and

D G/D D Em7/D D G G/B Asus A7 D

leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.