

Hymn

God of our Fathers

Grace Community Church - Sun Valley, CA

*God of our fathers, whose almighty hand / leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, / our grateful songs before thy throne arise.*

*Thy love divine hath led us in the past; / in this free land with thee our lot is cast;  
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay, / thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.*

*From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, / be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
thy true religion in our hearts increase; / thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.*

*Refresh thy people on their toilsome way; / lead us from night to never-ending day;  
fill all our lives with love and grace divine, / and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.*

*Celebrant* Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A moment of silence for self-reflection*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*People* **Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors  
as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit+. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

*People* **And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, and honor, and glory, and might, be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading                      Isaiah 45:1-7**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 96:1-13**

*Cantate Domino*

Sing to the Lord a new song; \*

**sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*

**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations \*

**and his wonders among all peoples.**

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*

**he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*

**but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*

**Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*

**Ascribe to the Lord honor and power.**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*

**bring offerings and come into his courts.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*

**let the whole earth tremble before him.**

Tell it out among the nations: The Lord is King! \*

**He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;\*

**let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, \*

**when he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness \*

**and the peoples with his truth.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.**

## **Second Reading                      1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel                                      Matthew 22:15-22**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## Hymn

### Nearer my God to Thee

*acapeldridge*

*Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! / E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
still all my song shall be, / nearer, my God, to thee; / nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

*Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down, / darkness be over me, my rest a stone;  
yet in my dreams I'd be / nearer, my God, to thee; / nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

*Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky, / sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,  
still all my song shall be, / nearer, my God, to thee; / nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

## Nicene Creed

*Said by all.*

**We believe in one God, the Father 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
he became incarnate from 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  
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. With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.**

**He 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 the People

*Celebrant* With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,  
those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the peace and unity of the world;

**That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For all who love God and trust in Christ, that divisions may cease;

**And that all may be one as you and the Father are one.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick the friendless, and the needy.**

For wisdom in this time of pandemic;  
**That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence.* Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them.

**Who put their trust in you.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.**

**I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

*People:* **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

*Celebrant:* Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

*People:* **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You [Lutkin], acapeldridge*