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**Week 1:**

**The Overflow of Grace**

**2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

# A picture containing shape  Description automatically generatedWeek 1: The Overflow of Grace

This week’s reading:2 Corinthians 8:1–9

Other suggested reading:Exodus 35:1-10, 20-22a

### Focus Verse

“For just as you excel in all things, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness

and in our love for you, excel also in this grace of giving.”

*2 Corinthians 8:7*

## Liturgical Service Plan

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

**And also with you.**

**Faithful One, whose word is life:**

**come with saving power**

**to free our praise,**

**inspire our prayer**

**and shape our lives**

**For the kingdom of your Son**

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Coming together as God’s family, with confidence let us ask the Father’s forgiveness for our failure to respond fully to his grace, for he is full of gentleness and compassion.

A time of SILENCE - for reflection

Lord, your grace is boundless and free;

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, you made yourself poor, that we might become rich;

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you came to transform us into graceful people;

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Collect

Heavenly Father, we see your boundless grace in every part of creation, and most especially do we see it in Jesus.

Pour your grace into our hearts so that it overflows in our lives and makes us generous people.

We make our prayer in the precious name of Jesus, Lord and Saviour of creation. **Amen**

## A Song of God's Light

**The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?**

**The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?**

**Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.**

**One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**

**To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple.**

**For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter; in the secret place of his**

**dwelling shall he hide me and set me high upon a rock.**

**Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness,**

**I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

From Psalm 27

***‘Gloria ...’***

Blessed is the Lord

**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**and in our song we will praise our God.**

## Prayer of Dedication

**We give what we have, but not all help us to be more generous.**

**We serve as we are called help us to see when you are calling us further.**

**We love within our limits help us to break down those barriers.**

**So that we may love and serve you and give wholeheartedly.**

**In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

## A Prayer for Giving in Grace

**Heavenly Father, give grace to us, the living stones who form your Church, to reflect prayerfully at this special time on our love for you and our neighbour.**

**Make us mindful of the many gifts you bestow upon us.**

**We ask that your Holy Spirit will inspire and direct us in our choice of giving, remembering that we are only giving back that which is truly yours.**

**Strengthen us, Lord, to meet this challenge according to your will.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord who has given all that we might live.**

**Amen.**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

We pray for grace to live and to give like Jesus, saying:

Lord, in your graciousness, **grant us your grace and love.**

Father God, we pray for your church in those parts of the world where there is persecution and poverty. Through your gracious love strengthen the hope, the hearts and the lives of your people. Lord, in your graciousness, **grant us your grace and love.**

Father God, we pray for our church here in our parish and throughout our diocese. Renew in us the sense of privilege in our calling to serve you and our willingness to give generously to resource your Church.

Lord, in your graciousness, **grant us your grace and love.**

Father God, we pray for those we know who are struggling with illness in body or mind or

spirit. Hold and sustain them in their weakness and grant your healing peace and comfort.

Especially we pray for ...

Lord, in your graciousness, **grant us your grace and love.**

Lord Jesus, by your cross and resurrection you conquered death yet taught us by your own

tears to weep at the death of those we love. We pray for those who grieve for ones

they have loved and lost and we hold before you in thanksgiving those who

have recently died.

Lord, in your graciousness.

**grant us your grace and love.**

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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.**

## The Offering

*Consider all that God has done for you, especially as you see this in Jesus. ‘Count your blessings’ and respond with appropriate generosity from your material wealth.*

## Prayer for the Offerings

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your grace and we make our offering now as a sign of that grace flowing through us. In our giving and receiving renew us with your love. Through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

## Blessing

May God, who gives us all things for our blessing and has given us everything in Christ, make you generous in your giving. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his poverty has made us rich, strengthen you to serve and to share with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit who dwells in the hearts of God’s people gently test the genuineness of your love and fill your hearts with gladness and grace.

**Amen.**

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.**

This service plan was developed by *Giving In Grace*, a comprehensive resource from the Diocese of Liverpool, designed to help develop a generous church culture, see more at www.givingingrace.org

