

**February 12, 2023**



**The ARC Ministry Staff**

Lead Pastor – Kevin Van Wyk

Equipping Adults Pastor – Doug Shotsky

Equipping Youth Director – Jessa Ter Beest

Equipping Children & Families Director – Lynnae Loomans

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## We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Praise Singing

### **“Graves into Gardens”**

I searched the world But it couldn't fill me  
Man's empty praise And treasures that fade  
Are never enough

Then You came along And put me back together  
And every desire Is now satisfied Here in Your love

Oh, there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

I'm not afraid To show You my weakness  
My failures and flaws Lord, You've seen 'em all  
And You still call me friend

'Cause the God of the mountain Is the God of the valley  
There's not a place Your mercy and grace Won't find me again

Oh, there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You  
Oh, there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can  
You're the only one who can

Oh, there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You  
Oh, there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can  
You're the only one who can

### **“Amazing Grace My Chains are Gone”**

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I am found.  
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

My Chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, Amazing Grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures

He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

My Chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, Amazing Grace

My Chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, Amazing Grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, Will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.

Congregational Prayer

Jr Choir – “The Lord’s Prayer”

### **We Hear God’s Word**

Children’s Message – Jackie Tenpas

Message – Exorcism: Responding to the Demonic  
Scripture – Luke 11:15-26 (see notes for more)

### **We Respond to God**

Prayer

**“Our God”**

Water You turned into wine  
opened the eyes of the blind  
There’s no one like You none like You

Into the darkness You shine  
out of the ashes we rise  
There’s no one like You none like You

Our God is greater Our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is healer Awesome in power  
Our God Our God

Into the darkness You shine  
out of the ashes we rise  
There's no one like You none like You

Our God is greater Our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is healer Awesome in power  
Our God Our God

And if our God is for us  
then who could ever stop us  
And if our God is with us  
then what could stand against  
And if our God is for us  
then who could ever stop us  
And if our God is with us  
then what could stand against  
What could stand against

Our God is greater Our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is healer Awesome in power  
Our God Our God

Our God is greater Our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is healer Awesome in power  
Our God Our God

Benediction

*Family Memory Verse for February 8<sup>th</sup>:* Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well. – Matthew 6:33



## Exorcism: Responding to the Demonic

### IF NOTHING ELSE, \_\_\_\_\_ THIS:

*"You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4 NET)*

*"We are weak, Satan is stronger, but Jesus is strongest, and if we have the power of Christ within us, by the Holy Spirit, then that power is stronger than the power that is in the world and the power that is in Satan." R. C. Sproul, A Walk with God: An Exposition of Luke (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 1999), 243–244.*

### THREE TOP-TIER TRUTHS ABOUT THE DEMONIC

#### 1. The Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Power & Authority (Luke 11:15–26)

*<sup>15</sup> But some of them said, "By the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons, he casts out demons." <sup>16</sup> Others, to test him, began asking for a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup> But Jesus, realizing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is destroyed, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup> So if Satan too is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? I ask you this because you claim that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup> Now if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup> But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has already overtaken you.*

*<sup>21</sup> When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his possessions are safe. <sup>22</sup> But when a stronger man attacks and conquers him, he takes away the first man's armor on which the man relied and divides up his plunder. <sup>23</sup> Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.*

*<sup>24</sup> "When an unclean spirit goes out of a person, it passes through waterless places looking for rest but not finding any. Then it says, 'I will return to the home I left.' <sup>25</sup> When it returns, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. <sup>26</sup> Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there, so the last state of that person is worse than the first."*

a. Jesus' power was from the finger of God, not Satan. (15-20)

b. Jesus will conquer Satan and free people. (21-22)

c. Jesus does not permit sitting on the fence. (23)

d. Jesus warns of not being filled with the Spirit... Demons return. (24-26)

## 2. The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus to Cast Out Demons

Jesus cured many "who suffered from unclean [evil] spirits" (Luke 6:18, see 4:41, 8:1-3, 13:32). Specific stories of exorcism are told in Luke 4:31-37, 8:26-39, 9:37-43, 11:14, & 13:10-13).

## 3. The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ Us (Luke 9:1-6, 49-50; 10:17-20)

a. Jesus empowered and \_\_\_\_\_ the twelve to cast our demons.

b. A \_\_\_\_\_ even cast out demons.

c. The significance of this empowering is huge!

i. Satan's \_\_\_\_\_

ii. Our Trampling \_\_\_\_\_

iii. God's \_\_\_\_\_

### APPLICATION:

**How will respond to evil forces? \_\_\_\_\_, fear, or \_\_\_\_\_**

Some of you have gifts in exorcism, intercession, and discernment. These gifts are not required to fight, but they are helpful. See the definitions and do the Assessme survey to learn about yourself.

### Fighting the Enemy:

1. Put on God's \_\_\_\_\_. Believers are called to saturate our lives with truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Spirit, and the Word of God (Eph. 6:10-17).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ who you are facing. You don't need to seek out the name of some demon, but you do need to realize the enemy is not your spouse, child, employer, or whomever else. Can you see how Satan and his demons may be involved in the situation? How are they setting a trap (1 Tim 3:7, 2 Tim. 2:26) or being deceiving (John 8:44, 1 Tim:4:1, Rev. 13:14)?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ boldly for protection, strength, and freedom from evil for yourself and others. Jesus told Peter "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:31-32 NIV) Just as Jesus prayed, so must we pray for others (Eph. 6:18-20).

## ASSESSME GIFT DEFINITIONS

### **Exorcism**

The gift of Exorcism is the special ability to confront demonic forces within the lives of spiritually oppressed people, and to help such people find spiritual freedom in Christ Jesus. People with the gift of Exorcism may also display the gifts of Spirit Discernment and Intercessory Prayer. An Exorcist will conduct spiritual warfare utilizing prayer; helping oppressed people understand their freedom, authority and identity in Christ Jesus; and through direct confrontation of demonic spirits, gain freedom through the name and authority of Jesus Christ. There are many passages that describe the gift of Exorcism in practice. Luke 10:16-24, Acts 16:18 and Luke 11:14-28 are but a few.

### **Discernment**

Spiritual Discernment is a special ability to be aware of the presence of godly and demonic spiritual forces. The gift of Spiritual Discernment is an important gift for the Church; because often the work of Satan can appear on the surface to be very positive. Without discernment, Satan could easily lead many people away from following Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:10 specifically lists "Discerning of Spirits" among the Apostle Paul's gift list. 1 John 4:1-6 instructs the Church to "test the spirits". Acts 16:16-19 relates how the Apostle Paul used the gift of "Discerning of Spirits" when he encountered a slave girl who was possessed by an evil spirit masquerading as a spirit of light.

### **Intercessory Prayer**

While God desires all Christ Followers to communicate with him through regular prayer, the gift of Intercessory Prayer is a special endowment of the Holy Spirit that transforms the Christ Follower into a "Prayer Warrior" for the sake of other people and other ministries. The label "Prayer Warrior" is derived from the belief that the person gifted with Intercessory Prayer stands on the front lines of spiritual warfare. This gift is sadly overlooked in the Church because it is seldom utilized in public. However, without Prayer Warriors, many visible ministry accomplishments would probably not be successful.

Biblical examples and instruction regarding Intercessory Prayer includes Colossians 4:12-13. The narrative states... "Epaphras....is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured". Again in Colossians 1:9, "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding...." In 1Timothy 2:1, the Apostle Paul states: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone...."

## DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

AssessMe is an online survey we use to help you identify your spiritual gifts. See 1 Cor. 12 for a list of gifts. AssessMe enables churches to turn off "supernatural" gifts,



for churches that believe they ceased, but there is way too much evidence saying they exist. 140 of you have done the assessment at least in part. Many have one of these gifts, but you don't need certification of the gift to claim authority over evil spirits.

Go to [www.altoreformedchurch.org/discover-your-strengths](http://www.altoreformedchurch.org/discover-your-strengths) for more info. Go to [www.assessme.org/8274.aspx](http://www.assessme.org/8274.aspx) to take the survey. If you want to finish your survey, go to [www.assessme.org](http://www.assessme.org) and login.

### *Upcoming Events*

- Feb 12**      8:30am – Prayer Meeting  
                 9:30am – Pastor Kevin, Jr Choir  
                 10:45am – Sunday School
- Feb 13**      6:30pm – Men's Bible Study
- Feb 14**      8:00am – Prayer Meeting  
                 9:30am – Women's Bible Study  
                 7:00pm – Consistory Meeting
- Feb 15**      6:00pm – Intermediate Praise Team  
                 6:20pm – Sonshine Singers, Jr Choir  
                 6:45pm – Bible Class, Mixed Choir  
                 7:30pm – High School Youth Group, Men's Chorus
- Feb 19**      8:30am – Prayer Meeting  
                 9:30am – Pastor Doug, Mixed Choir  
                 10:45am – Sunday School  
                 5:30pm – Jr High Praise Band  
                 6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group

To view the church calendar, go to [www.altoreformedchurch.org](http://www.altoreformedchurch.org)

### *Youth News*

**Middle School** – No meeting tonight! Catch up on sleep from the Overnighter!

**High School** – Prayer... why is it so important? What's the point? Let's talk about it Wednesday, 7:30-9pm

### *Opportunities to Get Involved*

**2023 Mission Trip to Manitoqua** – We have the opportunity to serve Camp Manitoqua through mission work during the week of April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. There are opportunities available for nearly all levels of ability whether young or old, so if the Holy Spirit is speaking to you to go, then know the Lord can use you there. More details are available at the Information Center.

**Pinewood Derby Family Night** – Join us at the Alto Community Center on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm for a fun, free night. We'll have a meal at 5:30pm and races will start at 6pm. Sign-up and grab a car kit with instructions at the Children & Families Resource Center by April 9<sup>th</sup>. Classes range from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to adult. Want to check the weight of your car? Stop in by Lynnae or Megan. Don't want to race a car? Join us anyway.

**All Church Retreat** – Join us for our 2nd annual All Church Retreat at Silver Birch Ranch on April 21-23. Brochures with information are in your church mailbox or at the Information Center. Register by March 31st or contact Megan to get help with registration. Any questions, reach out to Pastor Doug, Jessa or Lynnae.

### *Bulletin Board News*

**Offering** may be placed in one of the three white offering boxes located in the lobby. Upcoming benevolent schedule: 2/12 Missionary Salary, 2/19 Regular Benevolence, 2/26 Missionary Salary, 3/5 Missionary Salary. If you feel led to give specifically towards the ceiling project, please put your check in a separate marked envelope in one of the offering boxes. The deacons are keeping track separately of what has been contributed towards the project, which will be shown on the monthly financial reports. Thank you.

**Congrats** to Ron & Helene Daane as they celebrate their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Lent Activities** for families are available at the Children & Families Resource Center.

**Donations Needed for VBS** – Over the next few months we will be collecting empty toilet paper/paper towel/wrapping paper rolls and large cardboard to use for VBS decorations. Donations may be placed in the tote by the Children & Families Resource Center.

**Register for the 2023 ONE Waupun Men's Conference** at Green Lake Conference Center today; It's FREE! Our theme this year is "Who we are in Christ" and will feature a video message by Rick Warren and in-person messages from Bob Lenz, Founder & President of Life Promotions, and Aaron Baart, Chief of Staff & Dean of Chapel at Dordt University. Between praise & worship, fellowship and small group discussion, your spirit will be renewed and refreshed. Snacks and a buffet lunch will be provided as well! This free conference will take place on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am – 3:30pm. Register today at [www.onewaupun.com](http://www.onewaupun.com)!

## P - praise R - repent A - ask Y – yield

**Praise:** Today, Almighty Father, we celebrate that you have power and authority over every evil spirit. We thank you for protecting us from the evil one and conquering Satan on the cross. His fate is sealed and his doomed sure. Yet, our eternity with you is certain and it will be glorious.

**Repent:** Forgive us for trusting in our own strength and thinking we do not need you to deliver us from evil. Forgive us for not calling on you and not praying for others.

**Ask:** Lord, help us discern when Satan is seeking to deceive and destroy us. Give us eyes to see his schemes, wisdom to know the truth, courage to stand against his attacks, and faith to overcome. Bring healing, freedom, and peace to those listed below that they may know your power and love. We pray for your Spirit to drive out every evil spirit from those we love who are battling demons, addictions, and sin.

**Yield:** I reject the thoughts that are not from you and reject the efforts of Satan in my life. I will clothe myself with the armor of God and stand on your Word.

**THIS WEEK...** Pray for Connie Wiersema as she has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

**Healing:** Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Betty Daane, Cal Flegner, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Kevin Harmsen, Sharon Harmsen, John Hoekstra, Faye Janey, Isabel Kastein, Carter Kraemer, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Jean Stelsel, Jodi Vande Berg, Carl VanderKooi, Jake Vande Zande, Ron Vande Zande, and Silas Willey.

**Military Personnel:** Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in Las Vegas; Sebastian Hoenisch, deployed on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder; Mitch Miller, US

**Shut-ins:** Members in assisted living, nursing homes or those confined to their home: **Barrett House:** Lowell Glewen **Charleston House:** Brian Hemp **Beaver Dam Memory Care:** Cora Hemp **Christian Home:** Sharon Harmsen, Dayton TerBeest, Junice Vande Zande, Kay Vande Zande **Home:** Margaret Hoekstra, Marion Tolsma, Marilyn Westerveld, **Christian Homestead:** Betty Bruins **Maple Meadows:** Arlene Henning **Marvin's Manor:** Eleanor Loomans **Prairie Ridge:** Annice Hopp

**Missionaries:** Bob Abel – Remember Nhu, Steve & Amanda Bialy – Converge, Chris Briggs – CCCD, Andy Lickel – InterVarsity, Jersey & Preston Sheldon – Overland Missions, Randy & Wanda Potratz – SIM, Scott Ritzema – Youth for Christ