

Grace at a Glance

Paul's Sermon at Athens

Acts 17:16-31

Sunday, May 3, 2026



Scripture Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbling want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Prayer of the Day

God of all, You are present in all places and in all peoples, and the gospel story is spoken in every language. Open our hearts and minds to traditions different than our own, that we might learn from them, grow toward you, and become one unified Body of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



QR direct link to 'Give' feature on Grace website!



MISSION OF THE MONTH

April's Mission of the Month at Grace is Days of Grace in Tanzania. Days of Grace is a program through St. Paul Area Synod's ministry in Tanzania.

Days of Grace is a retreat held two or three times annually for pastors and church leaders to provide respite and to care for these church leaders who work so hard to provide ministry and care to others with limited resources and never ending demands of time and energy. Attendees are provided a respite from their daily challenges of parish ministry as well as the gift of good medical care, eye exams, etc. All expenses are provided free of charge through this program.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift to St. Paul Area ELCA's sister church - the Iringa diocese in Tanzania - so that they may continue the amazing work of spreading the good news to God's people. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.

This Sunday we worship at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.

Confidential Prayer Link: <https://forms.gle/oCUEbVJ6CkmdD3nB6>

We have established a confidential prayer email that we have added to our website which can be used by anyone wishing for prayers. This can be made available to just the pastor, the pastor and the prayer chain, OR the pastor, the prayer chain, and the congregation as you choose. Please feel free to test it out. This is just one more way you can access our pastor and/or the prayer team.

We have discontinued the phone access to worship services as it was not being used. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

We will continue to post recordings of the services each week on our website and Facebook page. Stay tuned for more information as we go forward. We pray for everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Your giving is very important to continuing our missions as always. You can give electronically using the give button on the website (www.gracelutheranstpaul.fyi), mail it in to the church (1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul 55106) or place in the offering at worship on Sunday.

The office hours are M-Thurs, 9:30-1:30. Feel free to call the church (651-774-9617) with any questions, prayers, or requests for help.

Upcoming: 5/3 9:30 am Worship
5/17 **Rhubarb Festival - Brunch (free will), auction of "experience" packages, baked goods sale (lots of Rhubarb & other goodies) All funds will be donated to the 'Meals on Wheels' program through Merrick.**



Monday, April 27—Sunday, May 3, 2026

Monday, April 27	6-8 pm Boy Scout Troup meets in Tower rms.*
Tuesday, April 28	7:00 pm Church Council with Zoom option 7-9 pm Iglesias de Dios* 12-2 Customized Options*
Wednesday, April 29	10-12 Coffee & Conversation 5:30 pm Bell rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal
Friday, May 1	7-9 pm Iglesias de Dios*
Sunday, May 3	9:30 am Worship - Live streamed and recorded 10:45 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School 12-3 pm Iglesias de Dios*

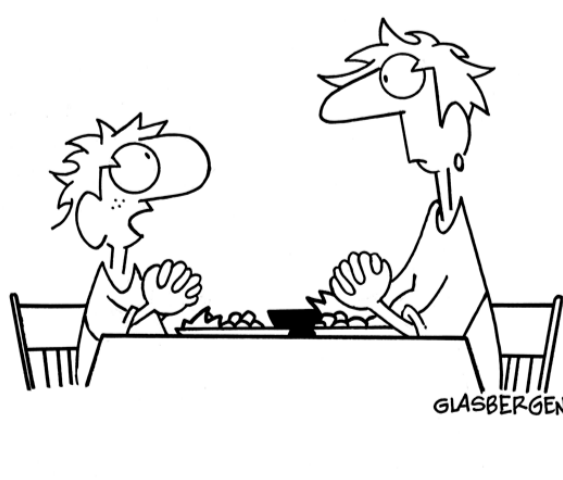
*outside group using facilities



Puzzle Day Fun!! April 17th

Church Chuckles

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"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables, why did He make them taste like vegetables?"

