



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Lombard CRC | Sunday, October 16

“The Gospel Is Good News Indeed”

### **Belonging by God’s Grace**

God’s Greeting

“King of Glory”

Confession & Assurance

“Amazing Grace” (#691)

Mission Video

“God of This City”

### **Knowing God’s Grace**

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Jonah 4

Sermon by Micah Schuurman

### **Rejoicing in God’s Grace**

Prayers for the People

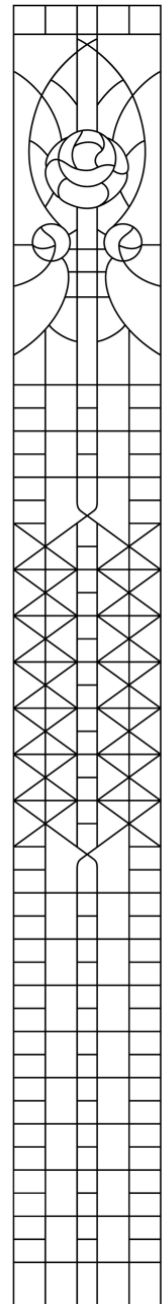
Offering

“Glorify Thy Name”

### **Living in God’s Grace**

Benediction

“My Friends May You Grow in Grace” (#938)



## SERMON BACKGROUND

Today's sermon briefly mentions Sodom and Gomorrah. There is substantial evidence that the sin of Sodom ought to be viewed primarily as violence and inhospitality towards outsiders.

Genesis 14:17-24. The king of Sodom and the king of Salem (Melchizedek) are set side by side for comparison. Melchizedek brings out bread, wine, and blessings. Sodom brings only a few rude words that seem to offend Abraham.

Genesis 18-19. Abraham shows extravagant hospitality to the 3 strangers. Lot shows very similar (though much more modest) hospitality to 2 of the strangers. Lot even tragically offers the men of Sodom his virgin daughters because he'd rather be a bad father than a bad host. As for the men of Sodom, they threaten the outsiders with sexual violence.

Judges 19-20. Bethlehem of Judah shows good hospitality. Gibeah of Benjamin basically turns into Sodom and ends up carrying out what the men of the original Sodom had threatened to carry out. (Warning: this is a very disturbing story. There are no heroes in this story, only evil.)

Jeremiah 23:14 mentions lies and adultery in Sodom. Ezekiel 16:49-50 says that Sodom's sin was pride and failure to care for poor people. Other Old Testament passages are either vague about the precise nature of the sin or they focus on something other than sex.

In Luke 9:51-56 and Luke 10:10-12 both Jesus and his disciples connect the punishment of Sodom with inhospitality towards God's messengers. Of all the passages, only Jude 7 focuses specifically on sexual immorality as the primary problem.

In short, sex was a relatively small part of what was going on in Sodom. There are other passages that talk more directly about same-sex intimacy. But when we read Genesis 19 carefully, it looks less like an orgy and more like a lynching.