

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor

Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director

Joyce Dubach, Organist

April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Lent



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

[Please stand as you are able]

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Holy One,

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

**Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.

In **+** Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *As the Winter Days Grow*

Longer (ACS 924)(as seen in the back of the bulletin) All

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GREETING

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

And also with you.

LENTEN LITANY

During Lent we wander, as though through a wilderness
with our ancestors in the faith, with Christ to the cross.

We come face to face with our sin.

We see starkly our needs and those of our neighbors.

Yet we are never alone.

We journey with God's sure and certain promises.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.

So shall your descendants be.

The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand
and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground
that you, O Lord, have given me.

O God, you are my God. I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters,
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land,
and the Israelites no longer had manna;
they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The 40 days of Lent are a journey with promise:

God's promises of the full table, the salvific cross and the empty tomb.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

(At this time all the children (pre-k thru 2nd grade) who would like to join us for children's church are asked to join us in the back.)

[The assembly is seated]

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their
sheaves.**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 3:4b -14

A reading from Philippians.

^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[Please stand as you are able]

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL : JOHN 12:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for Jesus. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

[The assembly is seated]

SERMON

[Please stand as you are able]

HYMN OF THE DAY *Holy God, Holy and Glorious* (ELW

637)

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CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms that no longer serve the gospel and bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage in the face of change. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Do a new thing in our world. Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all. Make a way for peace and collaboration among the nations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Do a new thing for those who suffer. Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle with money. Comfort those who grieve and restore those who are sick Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued .Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

(other prayers may be offered at this time, silently or loud.)

Do a new thing in our death. Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection as we give thanks for all the saints who have attained the prize of their heavenly call. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(At this time share the peace with your around beside you.)

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING PRAYER

Extravagant God,

you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.

Now we gather at your feast

where you offer us the food that satisfies.

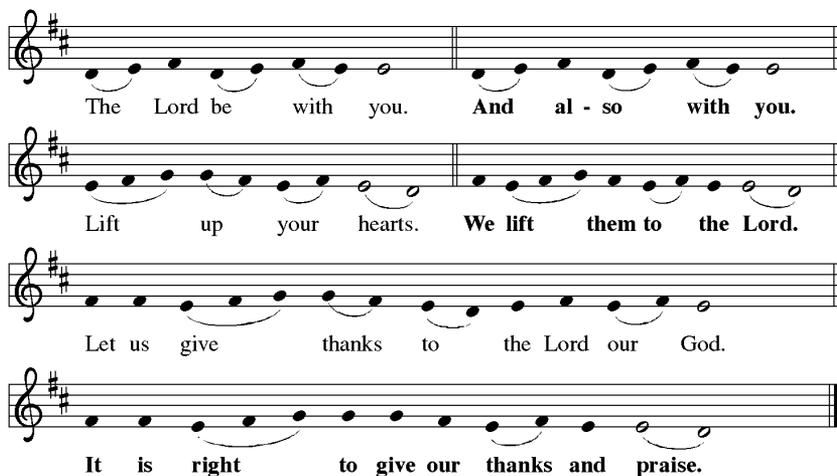
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,

and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

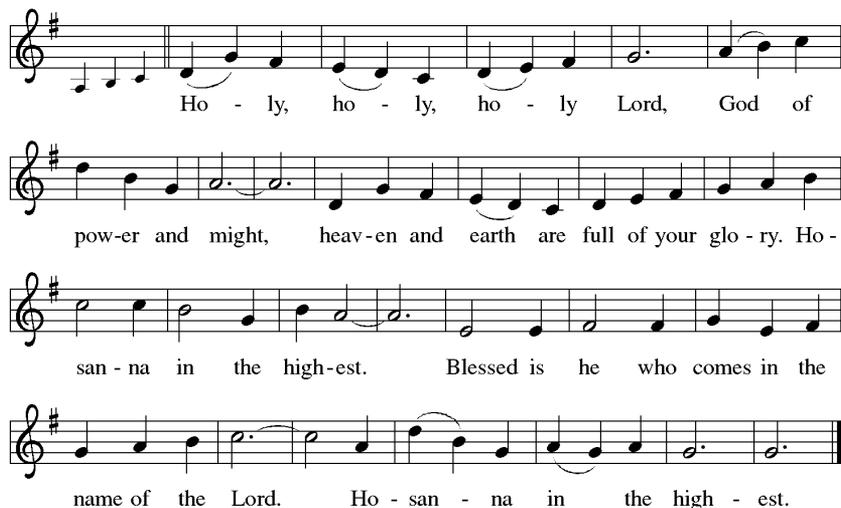
PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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, forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

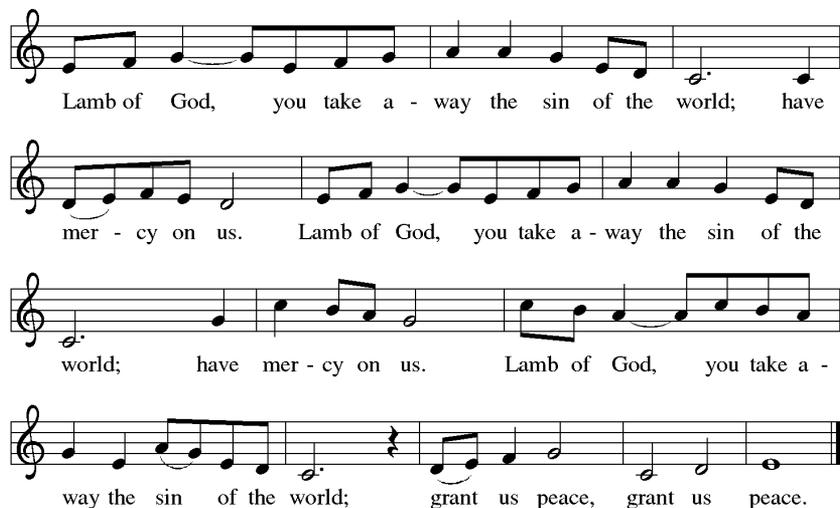
COMMUNION (*Everyone is welcome to come to the communion table. If you have not received instruction in the Sacraments, come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like to receive communion where you are seated in the pews, please tell the usher and at the close of communion you will be served.*)

*The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen***

*The blood of Christ; shed for you. **Amen***

[The assembly is seated]

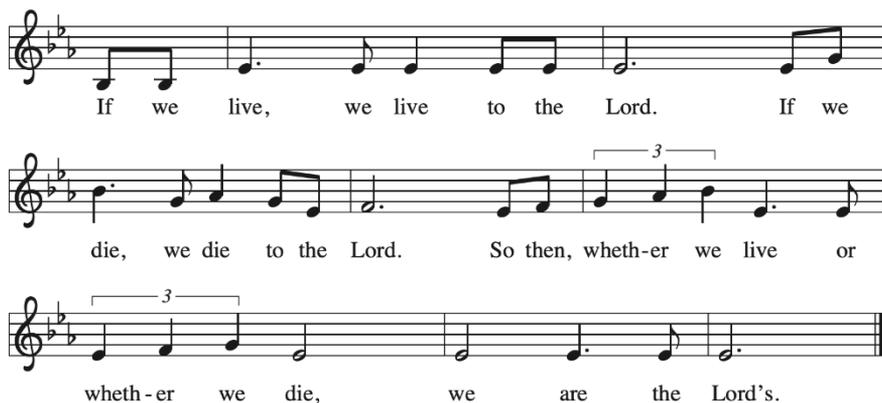
COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INSERTED MUSIC SUNG TWICE *If We Live, We Live to the Lord* (ACS 1025)

If We Live



If we live, we live to the Lord. If we
die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or
wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, based on Romans 14:8, Psalm 103

Music: IF WE LIVE, Rolf Vegdahl

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INSERTED MUSIC *Jesus, the Very Thought of You* (ELW 754)

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876 All rights reserved. Reprinted/streamed will permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-723136. All rights Reserved.

[Please stand as you are able]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***SENDING** God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

BLESSING

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey.

Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* (ELW 338)

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869 Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927 All rights reserved. Reprinted/streamed will permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-723136. All rights Reserved.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are doing a 40 Day fundraiser called ELCA World Hunger's 40 days of Giving. Our goal is 2,000 dollars. Half will be going to ECLA World Hunger and the other half will be going to Mission 25. There is two posters (by the nursery room door at the top of the stairs, and by the kitchen and food pantry doors, in the hallway) posted

for daily things such as worship , study, reflect, pray, give, hear and sing.

The Worship and Music committee had a meeting on Feb. 20th and they are currently discussing how to slowly and thoughtfully reintroduce our music groups back into our worship setting; bells, choirs, instruments, duets, trios, solos, etc... If you would like to be a part of reimagining new music opportunities for worship, please see Kim Converse. Stay tuned! More information is coming soon!

Mid-week Lenten Service, Online

Time for some Spring Cleaning!

For Abigail Group's March meeting, we will be cleaning the pews and other wood in the sanctuary .Anyone that is interested in helping us is welcome to join in. We plan to begin work on Monday, March 28th at 6:00 pm. If you would like to help, just bring a bucket and some rags or old towels. Light refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Penny Samuels.

We have new sign-up sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour. Coffee hour will be after church service, for any one that would like to stay.

We will be having an Easter Breakfast, on April 17,2022. Breakfast will start at 8:30am. At 9:30am there will be an Easter Egg hunt for all the children that would like to participate.

The Adelphi ladies are donating sleeping garments of all sizes (men and women) for the residents at The Oaks. The Director will be speaking at the April 19th meeting. There will be a basket on The Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help with the service.

Fundraiser to support the Preschool: Shop with Scrip through the RaiseRight App or through the website shopwithscrip.com.

→ Buy gift cards for places you already shop at with reloadable gift cards, e-cards or physical gift cards. There is no extra charge to you.

→ Example: If you shop at Walmart for groceries, you can purchase a gift card for \$100.00. You can purchase a physical gift card that will be sent straight to your house, or you can choose a reloadable card that will be put right on your App. You are already spending that money at the grocery store so why not buy a gift card before you go to the store to help the Preschool?

Organization name: Grace Lutheran Church Preschool

Enrollment Code: AL22LAE586216

Weekly agenda at Grace Lutheran church

Monday April 4,2022

Parents of addicted loved ones (PAL) 6pm

Cub scouts 3082 6pm

Property team 6:30pm

Hannah group 7pm

Alcoholics anonymous 7:30pm

Tuesday April 5,2022

T.O.P.S 9-11am

Sigma Eta Fine Arts Sorority 7pm

Wednesday April 6,2022

Men's breakfast 8am

Food pantry 12pm

Food voucher distribution 4pm

Thursday April 7,2022

Helping hands 12:30-2pm

AA/AL anonymous 7:30-8:30pm

Friday April 8,2022

Pastors day off

Food pantry 12-2pm

Saturday April 9,2022

Sunday April 10,2022

Worship at Hope 8:15am

Worship at Grace 10am

Children's church 10:15am

Girl scouts 5pm

As the Winter Days Grow Longer



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



year - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody

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