

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor

Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director

Joyce Dubach, Organist

March 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Lent



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

[Please stand as you are able]

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

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 *O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True* (ELW 675)

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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. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through 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.
[The assembly is seated]*

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The 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 word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt ¹of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time
of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach
them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should
go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay
near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ¹true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ to God, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God's own self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is appealing through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.

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: Luke 15:1-3,11B-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So Jesus told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So the father divided his property between them.

¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷The slave replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then the elder brother became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

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 *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)

(as seen in the back of the bulletin)

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.

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving . Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. 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

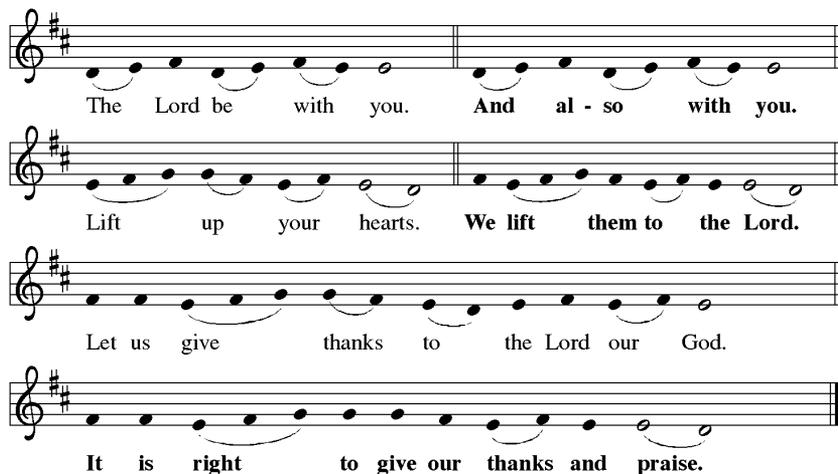
The peace of Christ be with you always.

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.*

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.

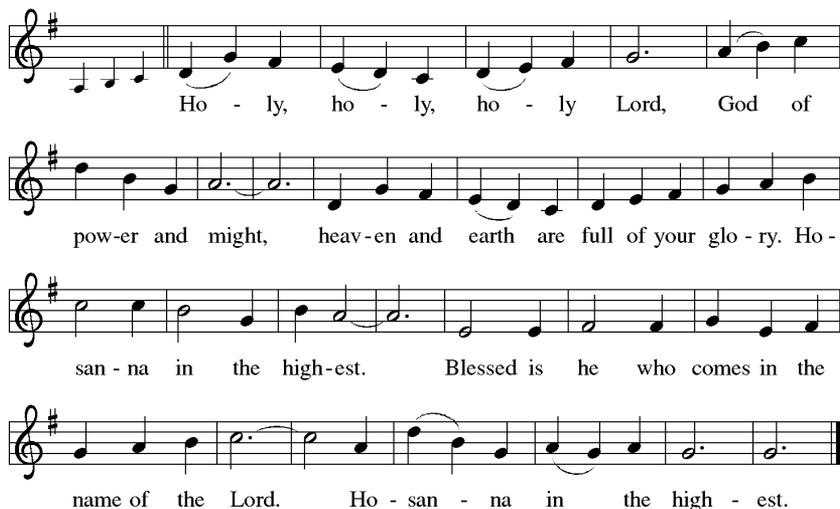
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

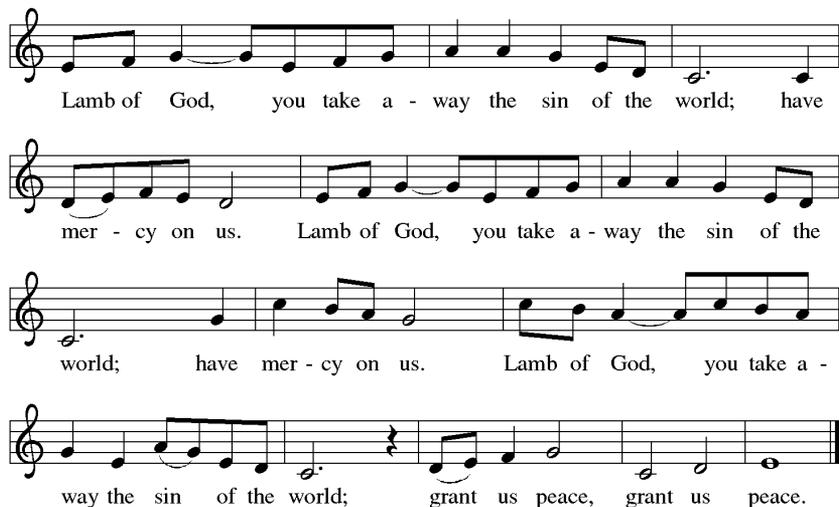
*The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen***

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

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 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 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (ST. HELENA)* (ELW 587)

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt. Music: Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984 Reprinted/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE. License #A-723136. All rights Reserved.

INSERTED MUSIC *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (ELW 779).

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt. Reprinted/streamed with 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 *When It Seems the Day Will End* (ACS 1034)

When it Seems the Day Will End



1 When it seems the day will end, and all
2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing
3 When it seems the day will end, and a



light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -
low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -
cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've



gain to re - mind us you are here.
gain, and with you now en - ter in.
been, and our hearts will be your home.

Refrain



New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,



joy and weep - ing, joy and weep - ing, in your call - ing. in your call - ing.

Text: Justin Rimbo, b. 1980

Music: HUMBLE WALK, Justin Rimbo

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.

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

If you feel that your child is ready for first communion please contact the church office. 260-244-7118 or office.gracelutheran@gmail.com

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

Save the dates, Important dates for Grace Lutheran

Open house /Registration nights (preschool)

March 29,2022 6-7:30pm

March 30,2022 6:30-8pm

Weekly agenda at Grace Lutheran church

Monday March 28,2022

Parents of addicted loved ones (PAL) 6pm

Cub scouts 3082 6pm

Abigail group 6:30pm

Alcoholics anonymous 7:30pm

Tuesday March 29,2022

T.O.P.S 9-11am

WC country Quilters 6pm

Preschool open house 6pm

Wednesday March 30,2022

Men's breakfast 8am

Food pantry 12pm

Food voucher distribution 4pm

Preschool open house 6:30pm

Thursday March 31,2022

Helping hands 12:30-2pm

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

Friday April 1,2022

Pastors day off

Food pantry 12-2pm

Saturday April 2,2022

Sunday April 3,2022

Worship at Hope 8:15am

Worship at Grace 10am

Children's church 10:15am

Girl scouts 5pm

What Is the World Like



1 What is the world like when God's will is
 2 What is the world like when God's will is
 3 What is the world like when God's will is
 4 What is the world like when God's will is
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -



done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than
 done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
 done? No more is neigh - bor just
 done? Read - y for feast - ing, we
 parts, filled with the Spir - it who



we can con - ceive: roots thread the
 child com - ing home; watch as the
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
 watch through the night, tend - ing our
 joins us as one. Born through our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 plac - es where once there was none.
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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