

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 17, 2019
Second Sunday in Lent

Here and Now

There may be a credible argument to be made for living life fully in the “now.” It might go like this: “Yesterday is no more, tomorrow may never come, so be present in the present because it’s all you’ve got.”

Some Pharisees, members of the group of religious interpreters of God’s law who so often appear as Jesus’ adversaries, showed up at a critical hour with an urgent and, by all indications, well-intentioned warning for him: he was in the crosshairs of killers. Herod, the embodiment of “law and order” for the Roman Empire (more accurately, the incarnation of an empire’s brutal force—an offense of power not left behind in the first century), wanted Jesus dead.

Jesus, not ignoring the Pharisees or their warnings, nonetheless rejected them with the sort of loving intensity a mothering hen might have for her brood of chicks. With an eternal “right here, right now” challenge to the power and the authority of both Herod and empire, Jesus refused to flee from tomorrow’s trials; he refused to withdraw from what might come. He stayed in the now.

When everything seems to be going wrong, the one who is Alpha and Omega holds by faith a course toward hope. Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, stands firm when certainty breaks apart in storms of chaos, when doom leases the moment, and when the long, sharp claws of tragedy and sorrow cut close. Jesus’ way among demons and despair is to heal—yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Jesus’ way of hope transcends the pinnacles upon which vacant optimisms teeter—yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Neither counsels of caution nor threats from empire, not the demise of prophets nor rejection from his own can stall the blessed hope that comes in the name of the Lord.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

Second Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2019

Lent is a season of contrition and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of penitence. The music of the season reflects our need for repentance and renewal, which is our effort to turn, again, towards God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit and face the baptismal font

Confession and Forgiveness

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

Amen

☞ In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

☞ God at the margins,

☛ **We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen**

☞ Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of ☩ Christ, leading you from death into life. **Amen**

Gathering Hymn

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life
Stanzas 1, 2, 5, & 6

ELW 719 (red book)

Greeting

☞ Behold, now is the acceptable time;

☛ **now is the day of salvation.**

☞ The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

☛ **And also with you.**



Otče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.
 1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
 Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
 e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
 sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray ... God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world.
- G** **Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

📖 A reading from **Genesis**:

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

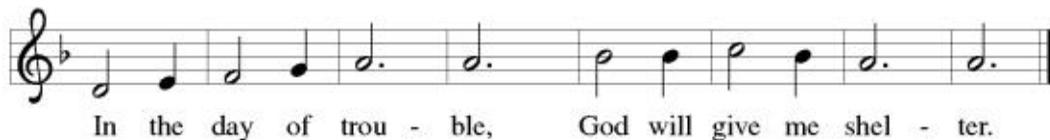
⁷Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” ⁸But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.



Psalm 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

²When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.

³**Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.**

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;**

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple. 📖

⁵For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and
make music | to the LORD.

⁷**Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;
have mercy on me and | answer me.**

⁸**My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.** 

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

¹⁰Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,
the LORD will | take me in.

¹¹**Teach me your | way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.**

¹²**Subject me not to the will | of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.**

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD
in the land | of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the LORD | and be strong.
Take heart and wait | for the LORD! 

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Although Paul’s devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

 A reading from **Philippians:**

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **Luke**.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection

Arise in body or spirit

Song of the Day

God Loved the World

ELW 323

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☞ Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

☞ Compassionate God, call your people to stand firm as citizens of heaven. As we are humbled by your wondrous love, nurture such mercy in our hearts and ministries. Empower our leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrysanne, David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, St. Matthews Lutheran Church of Bridgeport, Yankee Springs Bible Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.*

- A** Lord in your mercy,
C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Display your faithfulness to creation in the changing of the seasons. Orchestrate the great song of praise that comes from rivers, birds, mountains, livestock, and wind.
- A** Lord in your mercy,
C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Drown out the terror in the world with acts of lovingkindness and generosity. Release political leaders from pride and fear to act justly and to serve citizens. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military including: *Zack Green (Mikolajczyks), Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (Burdicks), Brady Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula – nephew), and Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls).*
- A** Lord in your mercy,
C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Rush to answer those who cry out to you in time of trial (*especially*). Give shelter to your vulnerable children and cover them in the comfort of your mothering wings *including Vern Allerding, Justin, Newell, Wes Gillons, Opal Gillons, Valeria Poholski, Jack Poholski, Phil & Amy's dog, Gary Edwards, Betty Lydy, Steve Lydy, Jennifer Anderson, Jamie Coplín, Cherie Clements, Charlene Swank, Vivian, Dee DeFields, Matthew Downing, Karl Golnek, Nikki Haddix, Delmer Hansen, Mary Jane Hayner, Doug Hensley, Jack Lameffer family, Elsie Merrow, Kim Ogden, Kathy Ploude, Pearl Stutz family, Kallie Triick, safe travel for Ron and Carla Neil, families of tornado victims, and George Ulrich Jr.*
- A** Lord in your mercy,
C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Grant solace to people who long to be parents, but have faced difficulty in bearing or adopting children. Build life-giving parent and child relationships for the sake of all.
Here other intercessions may be offered.
- A** Lord in your mercy,
C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Build up your holy community of saints through the work of bishops and missionaries (*like Patrick, whom we commemorate today*). Spread your word through your people for the sake of the world.
- A** Lord in your mercy,
C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- P** Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning

Arise in body or spirit

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land and you provide for our every need.
- ☑ **Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen**

Sharing the Peace of God

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them unto you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise

P 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:



Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide

C Together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

P You led your people Israel through the desert and provided them water from the rock.

C We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

P 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 Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, 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 in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☒ All who are hungry, come and eat the bread of life. All who are thirsty, come and drink the cup of salvation.

☒ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

☩ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

☩ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

☩ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

☩ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

☩ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

☩ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Thy Holy Wings
Blessed be the God of Israel

ELW 759
 ELW 613
 ELW 552

Sending of Communion Minister

- A** Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.
- ☒ **Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Congregational Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- Ⓐ God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.
- ☒ **Amen.**

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Song

How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796

Dismissal

- Ⓐ Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- ☒ **Thanks be to God.**

Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 17	Worship Services at 8 am & 10:45 am New Member Class 9:30 am
Wednesday, March 20	Wednesday Lenten Dinner – 6 pm Worship Service – 7 pm Pasty workers 8:30 – 11:30 am
Friday, March 22	Pasty workers 5:00 – 8:00 pm
Saturday, March 23	Pasty Sales

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Emma Peck	Mark Anton
Cantor	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
Lector	Hope Peck	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Volunteer	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Lexi Watson
Usher	John Burdick/Kay Marsh	Ed & Luke Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack & Carol Vos	Doug & Diane Neeb
Children's Church	~	Eve Wright
Table Guild	Laura Scheck	
Bread Maker	Deborah Wilke	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, March 24, 2019

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mark Anton	Anna Scheck
Lector	John Burdick	Jeanette Markwart
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Volunteer
Usher	Dave Neeb / Kay Marsh	Gwen Hansen / Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Volunteer	Bill & Lorraine Freedlund
Children's Church	~	Laura Scheck
Table Guild	Laura Scheck	
Bread Maker	Deborah Wilke	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 98 Weekly Giving: \$ 5,039.00 Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

New Member Class continues today. This class will study Luther's Small Catechism and take place during the Adult Forum hour (9:30 – 10:30). All members are welcome to attend, as it is good for us to remind ourselves of God's grace revealed through the gift of the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed and other materials. If you are interested in joining the body of Christ here at Grace, please contact Pastor Ken. The class will meet each week until April 14th.

Committee Chairs and Council Members: check your mailboxes for budget worksheets to complete.

Mutual Ministry: If there is a ministry concern, please contact Clyde Watson. Clyde is our member of the Mutual Ministry Committee that is highlighted this week and can be reached by a phone call or a text message at 269.953.4928.

Wednesday Lenten dinner and service will be held on March 20th – dinner at 6 pm and worship service at 7 pm.

Pasties... Coming to give you enjoyment. We will put them together for a pickup on March 23, 2019. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the Gathering Area for workers.

Easter Flowers are available for you to order. Sign-up sheet is available on a table. Proceeds from the sale will go toward the HVAC project.

Family Promise Brunch – March 31st. Please see sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area to contribute food and let us know if you plan to attend!

Praising God with Puppets. If you are interested in renewing our puppet ministry, please contact Chris Bush.

Boxes can be picked up at the display table for ELCA WORLD HUNGER. If you desire to support this ministry, please turn it in by Easter. The box is designed to hold 40 quarters. There are also devotional books available to pick up at the table.

Easter Candy Donations Needed ! Donations of wrapped candy are needed in order to fill all the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt! Please drop off your donations between now and April 7th to the church in the basket provided. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 21st after Easter breakfast .