

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

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.

Welcome/Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Arise in body or spirit and face the baptismal font.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C **Amen**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God at the margins,

C **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.

P 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.

C **Amen**



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.**

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray..... Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.
 Ⓒ **Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

- Ⓐ A reading from **Isaiah.**
- ¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
 and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
- ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm is spoken. The leader will read the light text. The assembly will read the bold.

Psalm 63:1-8

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly 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.
²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
³For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
⁴**So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**
⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
⁶**when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
⁷For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
⁸**My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

☞ A reading from **1 Corinthians**.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

☞ The Word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit. All speak the Gospel Acclamation in unison.

Gospel Acclamation Spoken

Return to the LORD, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

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

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

👉 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of Day

As the Deer Runs to the River

ELW 331

Prayers of Intercession

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Lord in your mercy**, The assembly responds in prayer. **Lord hear our prayer.***

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

A brief silence.

- A** We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Christ Lutheran Church, Michigan Center, Grace Community Church, Nashville, Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Be with those who serve in the military, especially *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas) and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing especially *Doris Allerding, Amber Andrews, Vickey Argo, Gerrie & Veronica Baarson, The family of Sandy Burzynski, Ron Bush, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Michael Gibbons, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Hannah Gutenmorgen, Larry Hansen, Judy Heil, Jill & Yancy Hobert, Mike Hoppe, Paul Kuhlman, Mindi Longcor, Bill Melcher, Ron Neil, Gloria & Ron O'Beirne, Darlene Olson, Phil Poholski (prostate cancer), Ken Plourde, Mike Shoemaker, Susie Smith, George Ulrich Jr., The People of Ukraine, Eve Wright, Lynnze.* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For the advocacy efforts of this congregation: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation.

C **hear our prayer.**

(You may share your prayers at this time)

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

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

C **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other giving a sign of Christ's peace.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of the newborn Lord with one another.)

After a sign of Christ's peace is given the prayer is prayed, as the assembly continues to stand.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray....Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,

C **that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

☞ The Lord be with you.

☛ **And also 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.**

☞ 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.

☛ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☞ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:

☛ **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

☞ Come to Jesus, our host, and our meal.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

We partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Please be seated. You are invited to come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At this time, we only offer the pouring chalice and prefilled grape juice cups. There is a gluten-free option for the bread. Please let the pastor know.

Please remain seated.

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
- ☑ **Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

After the Mission Minutes are shared, we arise in body or spirit, as the pastor shares the blessing.

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.**

Sending Song

I, the Lord, of Sea and Sky

ELW 574

Dismissal

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

Prayer Service for Ukraine
27 March 2022
Sunday Evening at 6 pm
Emmanuel Episcopal, Hastings

When Bad Things Happen

Do you think some people suffer because they are worse sinners than others? It's an uncomfortable question that usually goes unspoken, but Jesus poses it directly. Terrible things happen in this world, and human minds seek and invent patterns to find reasons for such catastrophes so we can be confident that we might prevent them from happening to us.

While we know from experience that some of our actions cause us to suffer, we cannot reason backwards from that. We cannot assume that if someone is suffering, it's because they did something wrong. The rain falls on the just and the unjust.

While Jesus asserts that no one is a worse sinner for being on the receiving end of suffering, he complicates matters by adding, "But unless you repent, you will all perish as they did" (Luke 13:3). *Repentance—metanoia* in Greek—literally means "turning around." A sense of urgency comes into the story, and a sense of personal accountability. Jesus is calling us to quit trying to infer from other people's suffering what they might have done wrong. Instead, Jesus says, *Look at yourself and your own actions and their natural consequences. Are you living the way God calls you to live?*

Lutheran theology teaches that baptism is a lifelong process. It is a daily invitation to repent, to let go of what fails us and let the grace of God refresh us like a cool drink on a hot day.

Bad things happen to good people because bad things happen to all of us sooner or later. Every day, however, we are invited into a fresh start, a choice of how we want to live, and the unyielding love of God gives us strength to carry on.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Processional Cross. If you are interested in bearing the cross, please contact any Worship Committee member.

Rummage Sale. We are looking for workers to help set up, run, and share some time for a rummage sale, which will help raise funds for the victims of war in Ukraine.

Easter Bulb Flowers are available for \$10.00 each. Look for order forms in the Gathering Area if you need one. Please place on Brenda's desk in the office with payment. **Orders due April 8th.**

A Gospel Worship Service on May 1, 2022. We will gather for *worship only at 10 am*, as we invite the community to join us for a special worship service and Quilt Show. We hope you can join us for this time of celebration and enjoy the beauty of the artists. We will also have a meal after the worship service. Please invite your friends to join us at this unique event.

Spring Flower Sale \$6.00 each. Like everything else, pricing keeps going up. Orders due May 11, 2022, with pick-up on Saturday, May 14th.

Lenten devotionals entitled *The Road Back to God* are available in the Gathering Area thanks to the Community Outreach Committee.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 38

Views: 106

Miscellaneous \$108.40

Weekly Giving: \$3,888.00

Budget Amount: \$4,163.28

Youth: \$6.00

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the one who teaches us to share grace with a hurting world.

Wednesday Night Dinners to be served at 6:00 before the 7pm **Lenten service**. This Wednesday we are having Soups, Salads, and Brownies for dinner. **Special Music for worship is the Grace Notes Handbell Choir.**

Grace Singers are practicing today after the 10:45 worship service, join us as we prepare to sing for the March 30 Lenten Wednesday night worship service, and several worship services on Sundays.

New member class continues today at 9:30 am. This class will replace the Adult Forum during Lent. Come and learn about the Lutheran Church for the first time or refresh your knowledge of what our church believes.

Pasty Sale: Remember *Flouring mixing is this Thursday, 3/24 @ 9:00 am. Pasty Making is this Saturday 3/26 @ 7:00 am.* Proceeds will benefit Alpha Women's Center.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday
Worship service
at 7 pm
April 14, 2022

Cross Walk
Good Friday
at 9 am
April 15, 2022

Good Friday - Tenebrae
(DARKNESS)
Worship service at 7 pm
April 15, 2022

8:00 am
Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am
Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Bill Freedlund
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Bill & Lorraine Freedlund