

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 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

Grace Notes Handbell Choir (10:45)

Rock of Ages by T. Hastings, Arr. Kimball
Jesus, Hear My Prayer by James Kimball

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.

G **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,

G **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.**



☐ 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 Song

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW 807

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.

Grace Notes Handbell Choir (10:45)

Prayer Medley: I Surrender All and Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

by Weeden & Whelpton

Arr. by Kimball

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

☐ 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.

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.**

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

Psalm 32

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD.

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

**²Happy 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.

**⁴For your hand was heavy upon me¹ 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 of my sin.

**⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in¹ 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.

**⁸I 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."

**¹⁰Great 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 true of heart.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

📖 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 to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

📖 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 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

📖 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 he 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 he 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. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he 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.

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of Day

Our Father, We Have Wandered

ELW 606

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** 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. *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Saint Timothy Lutheran Church, Midland, Gull Lake Bible Church, Hickory Corners, Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Lord in your mercy,
G **hear our prayer.**

- A** 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. Lord in your mercy,
G **hear our prayer.**

- A** Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict, especially Ukraine, as they suffer war from Russia. 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. 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,
G **hear our prayer.**

- A** 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. We especially lift before you: *Doris Allerding, Amber Andrews, Vickey Argo, Gerrie & Veronica Baarson, Wally 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, Kinsley McManawy, Bill Melcher, Ron Neil, Gloria & Ron O'Beirne, Darlene Olson, Phil Poholski (prostate cancer), Ken Plourde, Mike Shoemaker, Susie Smith, George Ulrich Jr., Carol Vos (cancer), Eve Wright, Lynnze.* Lord in your mercy,
G **hear our prayer.**

- A** 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.

*(You may share your prayers at this time)
Here other intercessions may be offered.*

- A** 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. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

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

G **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.

G **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,

G **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

- A** 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.
- G** **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

- P** 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.
- G** **Amen.**

Sending Song

What Wondrous Love is This

ELW 666

Dismissal

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

Prayer Service for Ukraine

Tonight at 6 pm

Emmanuel Episcopal, Hastings

We welcome the Grace Notes Handbell Choir today. We are pleased that they are willing to share their talent with us. Please welcome Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Joan Heffelbower, Lisa Pohl and Jan Rounds, as they play music to the glory of God.

Bowling Event. Youth and Family Committee invites everyone to the church for Pizza at 12 noon on April 30th. After pizza and discussion, we will be going to the bowling alley. Please signup by April 24th. Youth 18 and younger bowl free.

As We Forgive Others

Jesus' parables are not simple fables with fixed meanings, but unsettling plot-twisting narratives that raise more questions than they answer. If we set aside the most familiar interpretations of today's gospel and enter into the story through another door (or another character's point of view), we may find surprising new insights.

What if the story of the prodigal son is not only about the steadfast love and forgiveness of God the Father? What if it is also a story about the complexity of family life, grudges held for years, words left unspoken, and scores unsettled? That is, what if this is a story about us?

Like most parables, the story ends unfinished, and we're left to ponder what happens next as it continues to unfold off the page. Does the older brother accept his father's invitation and come back to the party? Does anyone ever thank him for his years of loyalty? Is the younger brother really changed by his experience, or is his father enabling him? Do the mother and sisters show up? Will the family fall back into the same old dynamics, or will there be accountability and repair?

The good news in this story is that God loves all of these characters: the selfish son, the foolish father, the resentful brother, the absent mother. And God's love frees them to change.

Forgiveness is complicated. While we draw strength from the power of being wholly and unconditionally forgiven by God, human relationships are messy. It is rare that one party is entirely wrong and another entirely gracious. We pray as Jesus taught us: "Forgive us, as we forgive others."

At its most basic, repentance means changing our way of perceiving. This is also the first movement of forgiveness: imagining ourselves in another's place, seeing the situation through their eyes. Held in the power of God's love, we are free to let our perception shift and to break out of the ruts of family systems to find new ways of being

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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.

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

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 sign up. We hope you invite your friends to join us at this unique event.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 44
Weekly Giving: \$926.00
Miscellaneous: \$108.40

Views: 106
Budget Amount: \$4,163.28
Paper Gator \$62.52

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 those who are part of our family and community.

Wednesday Night Dinners to be served at 6:00 before the 7pm **Lenten service**. This Wednesday we are having Lasagna, Salad, and Garlic Bread for dinner. **Special Music for worship is the Grace Singers.**

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.

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.

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.**

Holy Week

**Maundy Thursday
Worship service
at 7 pm
April 14, 2022**

**Cross Walk
Good Friday
9 am
April 15, 2022**

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

**8:00 am
Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**10:45 am
Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Jack Vos
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Jeanette Markwart**