

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Lord, I Lift Your Name

ELW 857

Greeting

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

A Behold, now is the acceptable time;

G now is the day of salvation.

P 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.

G And also with you.

Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo-ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.
 mer - cy. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray...Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises.
- ☩ **Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

First Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

℣ A reading from **Genesis:**

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32



Refrain



Mer-cy em - brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

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

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

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered 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 con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of 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 | true of heart. ☒

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

📖 A reading from **Romans**:

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.
Gospel Acclamation

Return to God

Re - turn to God with

Em Am7 Bm7 Em

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, and a quarter note A4. A repeat sign follows. The second staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line. Chords are labeled as Em, Am7, Bm7, and Em.

all your heart, the Source of grace and mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der

Am6/E Em7 Am/E C

This system contains the next two staves of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "all your heart, the Source of grace and mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Chords are labeled as Am6/E, Em7, Am/E, and C.

1. *Optional repeat* 2.

faith - ful - ness of God. Re - God.

D A Bm7 Am/E E

This system contains the final two staves of music. The vocal line has two endings. The first ending is marked "1. Optional repeat" and leads back to the beginning of the phrase. The second ending is marked "2." and concludes the phrase. The piano accompaniment includes a key change to D major for the second ending. Chords are labeled as D, A, Bm7, Am/E, and E.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

▮ The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

▮ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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. After reflection,

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW 838

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

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 You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Au Gres; Yankee Springs Bible Church, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke)*. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love especially *Bob Bolton, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Henry Heil, Cheryl Hills, David Hills, Katie Holzgen (pregnancy), Alexis Markwart, Kinsley McManaway, Walter McManaway, Annette Poholski, Delilah Rudesill (Cynthia and Brady welcome her along with Grandma Gwen), Jane Secor, Bob Sills, Theresa Strefling, Al Throop, Maryellen Wammock, Erika Wood, and Kathy*. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

- A** You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Lord in your mercy,

- G** **hear our prayer.**

- P** We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

- G** **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

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**

Sharing the Peace of God

- P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

- G** **And also with you.**

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

Great Thanksgiving

ℙ The Lord be with you.

☩ **And also with you.**

ℙ Lift up your hearts.

☩ **We lift them to the Lord.**

ℙ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Table Prayer

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.

☩ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

ℙ 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

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

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Communion

*Softly and Tenderly
When Peace Like a River*

**ELW 608
ELW 785**

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

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**

Sending Song

Great is Thy Faithfulness

ELW 733

Dismissal

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

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Sandy Mosteller
Cantor – Vickey Argo
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

If You . . .

In today's gospel, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. This story recalls that of Job, whose righteousness God also allowed to be tested. Both Job and Jesus are urged to turn away from what they know to be true and faithful. In Job's case, it is his friends who are relentless in making this enticement.

Another commonality in these stories is the phrase "If you." Three times in today's gospel the tempter says to Jesus, "If you . . ." In Job's story, this phrase is hurled back and forth between him and his friends. These two little words are meant to test and are always conditional: If you do or do not meet the condition, some consequence or other will follow.

In a world full of conditions, it can be hard to believe that God's saving work is completely unconditional. Even we who proclaim God's free gift of grace might fall into saying it is free *if you* accept it. We cling to the work we might do to make ourselves right with God.

In his Small Catechism explanation of the sixth petition of the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther suggests that God does not tempt anyone, but that the devil, the world, and we ourselves provide plenty in the way of opportunities to be led astray. God does not need to provide conditions and tests—we excel at this all on our own. When we pray, "Lead us not into temptation," Luther says we are praying for God's protection. This is never conditional. We pray for God's protection so we might learn to see it in the world and in ourselves.

When you pray the Lord's Prayer today, regardless of the temptations you face, know that you are a beloved child of God, fearfully and wonderfully made to be an instrument of God's unconditional grace in and for the world.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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*Let us take care
of
each other
in
the Wasteland*

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 49	Views: 234
Weekly Giving: \$4,985.61	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Helping Hands: \$40.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$15,115.65	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 650.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding: \$14,465.65	

Our first phase of the ***Lifting Up*** campaign of raising \$25,000.00 will center on replenishing borrowed funds from the shortfall of our budget, as we keep in mind planning for the replacement of the HVAC that services the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in joining the Congregation Council in implementing ***Lifting Up***.

Celebrate Recovery Ministry is a Christ-centered ministry that gives people the resources and relationships to help find a new way of living. This ministry is for anyone struggling with past or current hurts, habits, or hang-ups, whether they are affecting their own life, or the lives of those around them. Grace is excited to host a Celebrate Recovery group every Friday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in knowing more, please call 269.391.3080.

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans. Please pray that the youth that are part of Grace and our larger community, might consider going to this fantastic experience. The speakers, worship, fellowship, and service opportunities express the Christian body at its' best.

Save the Date – *The Wizard of Oz* - March 18th, 2:00 p.m. at the Hastings Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$12 general admission and Students are \$6. Please place cash or check in an envelope provided on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area and leave on Brenda's desk; make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church. If carpooling, meet at Grace Lutheran Church by 1pm to leave Church by 1:15pm, otherwise, meet at the PAC at 1:30pm. After the play, those interested can meet at Applebee's for food & fellowship (everyone pays their own way for both the play & food/meal). Questions? Please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216. Deadline for sign-up is NEXT WEEK.

Adult Forum studies the Psalms in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

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 all in the desert place at one time or another. God is there for us, but we are also to help one another as we trek through wilderness times.

Lenten Service and Meal Join us for a breakfast meal beginning at 6:30 and WORSHIP at 7:15. A sign-up sheet is located in the Gathering Area. Proceeds to go to the American Cancer Society RELAY FOR LIFE. Yes, we are going to try to have this meal again, since it was canceled last week. If you cannot sign up, please call the office at 269.945.9414, or email parishadmin@grace-hastings.org.

Lenten devotionals entitled *The JOY of SALVATION* are available in the Gathering Area thanks to the Community Outreach Committee.

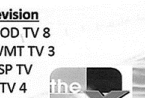






The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.


Pasty Sale will be on April 1st. No foolin'! Unbaked are \$7.00 and Baked are \$8.00 each. Proceeds go to the **Helping Hands** fund. Orders are due on or before Thursday, March 23.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12th, 2023. Don't forget to spring your clocks forward.

Look for notices on the following news outlets

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER
Closing will be published by the following media outlets:

Television WOOD TV 8 WWMT TV 3 WXSP TV WOTV 4	 WOOD 8 abc TV	 NEWSCHANNEL 3 WWMT.COM	 WBCK 95.3	Radio WBCH 100.1 FM WBCK 95.3 FM MIX 104.9 FM
				

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