

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW 777

Greeting

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**

A Behold, now is the acceptable time;

C **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.

C **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... Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always.
- ☩ **Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

- ℣ A reading from **Exodus**:

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

- ℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95



Refrain



Let us shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.** ☩

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!

⁸**"Harden | not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors | tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.'**

¹¹Indeed I swore | in my anger,
'They shall never come | to my rest.' " ☩

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

📖 A reading from **Romans**:

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

📖 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, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Chord symbols Em, Am7, Bm7, and Em are placed above the piano staff.

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 top staff continues the vocal line 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. Chord symbols Am6/E, Em7, Am/E, and C are placed above the piano staff.

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 top staff has two endings. The first ending is marked "1. Optional repeat" and leads back to the beginning of the system. The second ending is marked "2." and concludes the piece. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Chord symbols D, A, Bm7, Am/E, and E are placed above the piano staff.

Gospel Reading

John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

▣ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

✠ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him."²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

- 📖 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

As the Deer Runs to the River

ELW 331

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

- 🙏 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.

- 🙏 We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Trinity Lutheran*

Church, Barton City; Cedar Creek Bible Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. 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,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness especially *Bob Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Cherie Clements, Pat Wales Depew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Sheri Greenfield, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Cheryl Hills, Katie Holzgen (pregnancy), Alexis Markwart, Laura McLeod, Martha Misak, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Carl Schoessel, Jane Secor, Bob Sills, Theresa Strefling, Carol Tobias, Al Throop, Erika Wood, and Kathy*. Give them your living water always. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for this congregation, especially those preparing for baptism. Nurture their faith and pour your love into their hearts. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace in their lives. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We give thanks for the lives of all your saints. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared 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,

C hear our prayer.

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

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

- ⒫ The peace of Christ be with you always.
Ⓒ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

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.**

Table Prayer

- ⒫ 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.**

Communion

Wade in the Water ELW 459
Baptized in Water ELW 456

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

Shall We Gather at the River ELW 423

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 – Mark Anton
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Chris Bush
Musician – Chris Bush
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Paul Kuhlman
Lector – Linda Melcher
Cantor – Vickey Argo
Musician – Chris Bush
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

Gushing with Grace

The word *gush* has nuances of meaning. On the one hand, it can speak to large amounts of a liquid flowing forth. A geyser gushing water is quite different than a leaky faucet letting water through a drop at a time. On the other hand, *gush* can speak to our enthusiasm about a person, place, or experience. A person gushing about a new movie to a friend carries different energy than someone saying, “Eh, it was okay.”

In today’s gospel we get the first sense of this word as Jesus tells the Samaritan woman about the water he will give, which will become a spring that gushes up to eternal life. The word *gush* is not used again in the story, but the second part of the narrative gathers up the spirit of the other sense of *gush* as the woman goes back to the city and shares her experience of Jesus. Many in the city come to believe because of her witness; she must have been gushing forth energy and excitement about her encounter with Jesus.

As the church takes on the ministry of Jesus after the resurrection, we find other people springing forth in the same way Jesus talks about water gushing. Peter heals someone in Acts 3:8 who jumps up and leaps (gushes) in praise. Paul also heals someone in Acts 14:10 who springs up (gushes) and walks.

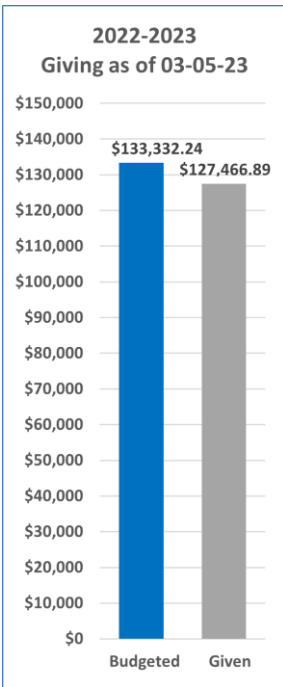
The water in your baptismal font may be still, or it may be moving; it may be more reminiscent of a trickle than a gush. Yet we know that it is God’s word that gives the plain water the power to shape us as God’s people. Baptism is never a trickle; it is always a gush of grace poured out for us with the endless love and mercy of God. May we be blessed to gush along with the Samaritan woman about our experiences of Jesus among us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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*Jesus speaks with a
foreigner and invites
her to receive
God's grace*



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 58

Views: 222

Weekly Giving: \$4,935.00

Budget Amount: \$4,301.04

Youth Gathering: \$5.00

Lifting Up Campaign Needed: \$14,465.65

Lifting Up Campaign Received: -\$ 50.00

TOTAL Outstanding: \$14,415.65

Lenten Meal and Service Join us for a chili, bean soup, broccoli cheese soup, bread, salad, and dessert meal beginning at 6:30 and WORSHIP at 7:15. A sign-up sheet is located in the Gathering Area. Proceeds to go to ELCA World Hunger Program. If you cannot sign up, please call the office at 269.945.9414, or email parishadmin@grace-hastings.org.

Prayer Chain Grace is activating the prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

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.

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**.

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

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.

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. As we see from our gospel reading, Jesus welcomes the Samaritan women. May we each realize that Jesus welcomes us each and every day.

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


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.**


Noisy Offering will be collected today to benefit Barry County Cares. You may place coins and other money into the silver bowl located in the front during the singing of the offertory song. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.


Lakewood Public Schools Production of *Les Misérables* March 17-19 Our own Lydia Markwart is in this production. Opening night is March 17 at 7 pm, March 18 has a two performances at 3 pm and 7 pm and a final show at 3 pm on March 19. You may purchase tickets just before the performance in the lobby or visit www.lakewoodpsdram.org. Come and support our Senior Lydia.

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 WKSP TV WOTV 4		Radio WBCH 100.1 FM WBCK 95.3 FM MIX 104.9 FM
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