

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

Greeting

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

☒ Amen

☒ 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.**

Kyrie

Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.

Last time



1 For peace in the world, for the
 2 That we may live out your im -
 3 For peace in our hearts, for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you



health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
 passionate re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
 peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
 cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;



for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
 that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
 for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
 that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray...O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life.
- Ⓑ **Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

📖 A reading from **Genesis**:

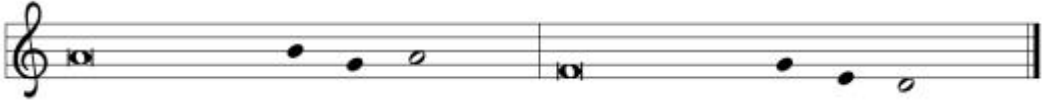
¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:23-31



Refrain



All the ends of the earth shall re - mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

**²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

📖 A reading from **Romans**:

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **Mark**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

☐ 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

Lamb of God (Your Only Son)

ELW 336

Nicene Creed

☐ Let us proclaim our faith together:

☑ **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and**

glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **We lift our hearts to you.** The assembly prays, **Reveal your love, O Lord.***

Ⓐ Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

Ⓐ We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders, especially up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David; our synod companion churches Hope Lutheran Church, Marlette; Orangeville Baptist Church, Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you.

☒ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. We lift our hearts to you.

☒ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. 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).* We lift our hearts to you.

☒ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved especially *Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Lisa Golnek, Lorraine Handsbarger, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Linda Melcher, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Rick Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, Russ Trongo, and Brenda Watson.* We lift our hearts to you.

☒ Reveal your love, O Lord.

☐ We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. We lift our hearts to you.

☒ Reveal your love, O Lord.

☐ Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. We lift our hearts to you.

☒ Reveal your love, O Lord.

☐ Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

☒ Amen.

Offering Song

Seed That in Earth Is Dying

ELW 330

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

Bread of Life from Heaven
Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 474
ELW 471

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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

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 – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Mike Kemper

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Paul Kuhlman

Lector – Bill Freedlund

Cantor – Vickey Argo

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Mike Kemper

Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

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 reveals God's presence in our lives. It is by God's grace that we are made a child of God, who is blessed by God's rich grace, mercy, and peace.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Attendance: 45 Views: 348
Weekly Giving: \$2,218.00 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
Lenten Mid-Week Meal for Family Promise: \$143.00

Grace Projects Goal	\$25,252.00
Received To Date	- \$505.00
Total Needed	\$24,747.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$5.00

We welcome **Pastor Mike Kemper** as preacher and presider today. We are blessed with many pastors that are filling in as Pastor Schek is taking time away seeking God's peace, healing, and transformation. We are thankful for God's Holy Spirit who sustains Grace Lutheran Church during this time of refreshment, renewal, and trust in God's guidance during this time.

Community Wednesday Service February 28, 2024, at **12 noon** will be held here at Grace. Please join our ecumenical partners in providing unity in the body of Christ by attending. The theme of the worship service is **Care**. Pastor Danny Quanstrom will be doing the presentation. Information about this and the other community Lenten services is located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Grace Youth are Invited to commUNITY Youth Bash on March 22, 5-11pm, at the Hastings CERC 6th-12th grades invited. Tons of activities: Christian speaker, basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, 9Square, Nerf Wars, swim-in (swimming with a movie), pizza, and more! Pastor Emma Miller of the Hastings Free Methodist Church will be providing more details in the near future.

Turkeyville Dinner Theater Oklahoma is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th (or alternate date of Friday, May 17th). Tickets are \$65 each and the deadline for purchasing tickets is March 17th. Please check the bulletin board for sign up information.

Adult Forum please join us at 9:30 with Joe Longcor leading the study.

Book Study entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist is led by Pastor Paul Kuhlman. The next study session is **March 17, at 9:30**.

Hope against Hope

Paul tells us that Abraham hoped “against hope” (Romans 4:18). Many of us know this feeling. The injustices in our world, the damage we see in the environment, and the wounds we bear in our own souls can all seem like too much. The promises of redemption poured out in baptism sometimes seem so far away.

Amid this reality, we hear Jesus teach that he “must” suffer, die, and rise again. To Peter this sounded like foolishness. If the Messiah were rejected, how could the salvation they longed for ever come? But Jesus insists that to deny this is to reject “the things of God.” Why must it be so?

Because of God’s great love. Jesus must suffer because he will do everything that needs to be done to rescue God’s world from sin and death. He will endure rejection, torture, and even death. He “must” do this because the world’s brokenness is that deep. We don’t need better teaching or stronger motivation. We need rescue from powers greater than ourselves. He will bear the burden of sin and death in his body to release us from their grasp. Love drives him to this full extent of mercy.

And in the mystery of God’s grace, Jesus will die. But he will be raised again. And his death and resurrection set us free from sin and death’s power. We can hope, even in the most hopeless of circumstances, because Jesus has passed through all the evils that threaten us and emerged triumphant. In Jesus, our sins are forgiven, the world’s injustices will not last forever, and everything broken will be made gloriously new. Until then, he gathers us around the life-giving word and gives himself to us in a holy meal. He leads us on our cross-shaped journeys of dying to sin to discover true life. And he sends us forth to share the good news of God’s mercy with a world longing for hope.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Women of Faith meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome. A reminder that if Hastings Schools are closed due to inclement weather we will not meet. Thank you.

The nursery is available weekly 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.



Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. For February, they are in additional need of microwave popcorn, individual apple sauce cups, and Knorr Alfredo Pasta.

The deadline for February is the 25th. Thank you for your continued support of this valuable program.

Look for the Lenten Devotional which is available in the Gathering Area. This year the title is *Lifted Up in Love* by Henri J.M. Nouwen.

Meals for Lent Each Lenten meal begins at 6:15 followed by worship at 7:15 pm. Join us on Wednesdays in February on the 28th, and in March on the 6th, 13th, and 20th. This Wednesday, February 28, is hosted by the Grace Church Council. The evening's meal will be soup and salad. Proceeds go to Barry County Cares.

The Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity are a local group of people dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in our community. This month they are hosting a series of events at the Hastings Library called *Lift Every Voice*. They conclude this series **Monday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m.** and they will be showing the documentary, "I am Not Your Negro".

Easter Flower Sale If you would like to purchase flowers from the Easter flower sale, please turn in your order form and money by **Monday, March 25th**. This year we have daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and Easter lilies available. If you would like to donate a flower to someone, please indicate in the space provided on the order form.

Social Activities Invites You The 2024 Hastings High School Play is "Matilda". Grace plans to attend on Saturday, March 9th at 2:00PM. This year we ask that you purchase tickets on your own from the high school. We plan to go to dinner after the play. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested in going to dinner so reservations can be made. Please indicate if you need a ride.