

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Holy God, Holy and Glorious

ELW 637

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;
passioned 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... Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously.
- Ⓑ **Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

📖 A reading from **Exodus**:

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work.
¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.
¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

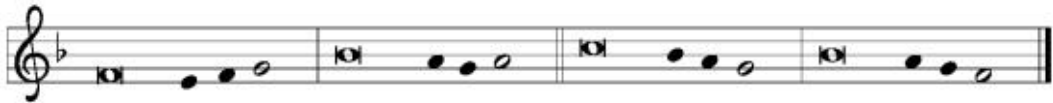
¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19



Refrain

The com - mand - ment of the LORD
gives light to the eyes.


¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

³Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.


⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat. 

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.


⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. 

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer. 

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25


The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

 A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

 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

John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

☐ 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

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

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.***

- A** 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.

- A** You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Be with, guide and direct *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David; our synod companion churches All Saints Lutheran Church, Mason; Our Lady of Great Oak, Bellview; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you,

G Reveal your love, O Lord.

- A** You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. We lift our hearts to you,

G Reveal your love, O Lord.

- A** You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. 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,

G Reveal your love, O Lord.

- A** You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick especially *Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Lisa Golnek, Easton Greenfield, Lorraine Handsbarger, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Carolyn O'Connor, 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.

Ⓐ You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ Reveal your love, O Lord.

Ⓐ You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. 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.

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

Seed That in Earth Is Dying

ELW 330

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

*Be Thou My Vision
I Am the Bread of Life*

ELW 793

ELW 485

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**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister –Mark Anton
Lector – Tim Schoessel
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Kate Van Valkenburg

10:45 am

Assisting Minister –Traci Wales
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Kate Watson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Kate Van Valkenburg
Fellowship – Diane Neeb

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.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 47 Views: 50
 Weekly Giving: \$1,127.00 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
 Lenten Mid-Week Meal for Barry County Cares: \$82.00

Grace Projects Goal	\$25,252.00
Received To Date	<u>-\$ 505.00</u>
Total Needed	\$24,757.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$5.00

Noisy Offering will be collected next week to benefit Barry County Cares. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

We welcome Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg as preacher and presider today. Pastor Van Valkenburg is the pastor for United Campus Christian Fellowship in Grand Rapids, and the Co-Dean for the Grand Rapids Conference of the ELCA. We are blessed with many pastors that are filling in as Pastor Scheck 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.

Social Activities Committee meets tomorrow, March 4th at 4:30 PM. Social Activities will meet on the first Monday of the month from now on.

Community Wednesday Service March 6, at **12 noon** will be held at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Please join our ecumenical partners in providing unity in the body of Christ by attending. The theme of the worship service is **Forsaken**. Pastor Paul Kuhlman 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 **Sunday, 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.**

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. They are in additional need of microwave popcorn, individual apple sauce cups, and Knorr Alfredo Pasta. **The deadline for March is the 31st.** Thank you for your continued support of this valuable program. The Hand2Hand program now serves over 80 disadvantaged children from Hastings schools.

Meals for Lent Each Lenten meal begins at 6:15 followed by worship at 7:15 pm. Join us on Wednesdays in March on the 6th, 13th, and 20th. This Wednesday, March 6, is hosted by Kim Domke. The evening's meal will be egg casseroles, ham, fruit, and muffins. Proceeds go to CPR education to help purchase a new CHILD manikin for more realistic training.

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 is attending 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.

God's Zeal Makes Us Clean

In this penitential season, we hear the words of God's law revealed on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:1-17). The law was given to guide Israel, newly rescued from slavery in Egypt, to become a community reflecting God's love and holiness. However, this law, no matter how full of love it is, will always carry the sting of accusation for us because our hearts have strayed from God's gracious purpose. We aren't capable of fully following the law because we are still captive to the powers of sin and death, so the commandments will always reveal our trespasses. We should not be surprised that God's word convicts even those who have been called into the community of faith. After all, Jesus cleansed even the temple, reacting against sin within the very heart of religious life.

These scenes on Mount Sinai and in the temple don't just concern people of times long past. They draw us in as well. In the mysteries of holy baptism and holy communion, we become the house of the Lord. Joined to Christ by grace, we are, together, the body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is zealous for the holiness of his body, desiring that those who have been united to him would walk in love and truth.

Our great assurance, though, is that the living Word of Jesus is greater even than the revelation on Sinai. Where the law can only convict, Jesus forgives. Where the law reveals our bondage to fear and pride, Jesus brings joyful freedom. In Christ, his body the church dies to sin and then, by grace, rises to new life, made clean and holy.

Let us not fear the one who calls us into holiness and cleanses the temple with zeal. The law reveals where sin has brought death to our souls. But Jesus has passed through death into a glorious resurrection to make us into a living temple, where God's mercy can be found in abundance for us and for the world.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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