

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

As the Winter Days Grow Longer

ACS 924



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light —
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer —
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

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



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...O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers.
- Ⓒ **Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

- Ⓐ A reading from **Jeremiah:**

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

- Ⓐ The Word of the Lord.

- Ⓒ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-12



Refrain



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.** ☒

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.** ☒

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.** ☒

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

☐ A reading from **Hebrews**:

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Let Your Steadfast Love

Page 181 ELW



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 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

☐ 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

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

Nicene Creed

P Let us proclaim our faith together:

C **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 God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Watch over and guide *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David our synod companions Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland; Peace Church, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you,

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. We lift our hearts to you,

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. 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 God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions and for those who are experiencing illness especially specially *Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Walter Brown, the family of Donna Buehl, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Bob and Bonnie Ehredt, 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, Corinna 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,

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. We lift our hearts to you,

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. We lift our hearts to you,

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

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 Song

Seed That in Earth Is Dying

ELW 330

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.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **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

*Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth
My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

**ELW 735
ELW 759**

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

- ☐ 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 – Tim Schoessel
 Cantor – Cindy Olson
 Musician – Cindy Olson
 Pastor – Paul Kuhlman

10:45 am

Assisting Minister –Mark Anton
 Lector – Joe Longcor
 Cantor – Mary Kuhlman
 Musician – Cindy Olson
 Pastor – Paul Kuhlman
 Fellowship – The Kuhlman

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

Worship Service
 at 7:15 pm
 March 28

Cross Walk

Good Friday
 at 9:30 am
 March 29

Good Friday

Worship Service
 at 7:15 pm
 March 29

Sonrise

Worship Service
 at 8:00 am
 March 31

Easter

Worship Service
 10:45 am
 March 31

Called Where Jesus Goes

It isn't only the first disciples who become uncomfortable when Jesus talked about his approaching death. We often do as well. Perhaps focusing on the crucifixion seems gruesome. Perhaps it conjures in us the (false) story of a divine parent who cannot forgive without punishing someone, with Jesus standing in as that one. Maybe it feels like a morbid emphasis on sin.

Jesus did not understand himself as the victim of divine punishment. He entered into suffering as a part of his glorification, working with—not against—his Father. He knows that human life has become twisted under the powers of sin and death so that if we grasp onto our “life in this world,” we will miss God's gracious intention for us. Christ's judgment of sin is not for our exclusion. Jesus never seeks to shame us, but condemns sin in order to deliver us from its power.

Perhaps, however, we shy away from talk of Christ's death because we sense, on some level, that if our Lord must go to the cross, then so too must we. Jesus declares, “Whoever serves me must follow me.” Discipleship is a summons to die to ourselves and lose our life on this world's terms. Paradoxically, this cruciform journey is the road to true fruitfulness and flourishing. It begins in our baptism and is nourished at the Lord's table. It is sustained by the fellowship of faith, where together we hear the life-giving word of Jesus. It will find completion on the day of resurrection.

Our souls long for this way of salvation. Deep within us all, a voice whispers, “We wish to see Jesus.” God knows this need, so Jesus is lifted up to drive out the powers of sin and death. God's unending mercy is displayed. For the same reason, we come together so that in hearing the word and sharing the eucharistic meal, and in our prayers, laments, and praises, Jesus may be lifted up to draw us, and all people, to salvation.

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: 39	Views: 426
Weekly Giving: \$8,402.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
Lenten Mid-Week Meal for CPR: \$116.00	Noisy Offering: \$16.25
Paper Gator: \$36.00	

Grace Projects Goal	\$25,252.00
Received To Date	- <u>\$525.00</u>
Total Needed	\$24,727.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$5.00

We welcome **Pastor Paul Kuhlman** as preacher and presider today. 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.

Called to the Church Triumphant Our sister in Christ, Donna Buehl, passed away on Wednesday, March 13. Donna's family is being served by Girrbach Funeral Home where visitation will take place on Sunday, March 17 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Donna's funeral service will be held here at Grace on Monday, March 18 at 11:00, with a visitation prior to the service beginning at 10:00. May Donna's family feel the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ as they mourn her loss.

Called to the Church Triumphant Visitation for Carolyn O'Connor is at Girrbach on Saturday, April 6 at 1:00 p.m. with a service to follow at 2:00.

The Final Community Wednesday Service of 2024 will be March 20, at **12 noon** will be held at the Green Street United Methodist Church. Please join our ecumenical partners in providing unity in the body of Christ by attending. The theme of the worship service is **It is finished**. Father Jeff Hanley will be doing the presentation.

Our Final Meal for the 2024 Lenten Season begins at 6:15 followed by worship at 7:15 pm. this Wednesday, March 20 and is hosted by the Worship Committee.

Good Friday Cross Walk A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area for those who plan to participate in the Cross Walk this year either by walking, reading a scripture passage, volunteering to serve as a driver for the follow vehicle, or to help provide refreshments. Thank you from the Outreach Committee for being a part of this 50+ year tradition in our community.

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 **TODAY at 9:30.**

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 has sent a flyer with additional information which has been posted in the gathering area. Youth may register by scanning the QR code.

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 **TODAY 3/17/24.** Please check the bulletin board for sign up information.

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.

Game and Pizza Night The Social Activities Committee invites you to a game and pizza night on Friday, April 12. Please check the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for more information and to sign up.

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.