

February 22-March 22

Lent Bulletin

Our Lenten theme is...questions.



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

**We welcome you to worship here at Grace!**

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.  
Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
red hymnal found in the pews.*

*S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.*

## GATHERING

**Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!**

### INTRODUCTION

*Each year in a 3-year cycle, our Lectionary (pattern of Bible readings in worship) focuses on one Gospel writer. In 2026, it is Matthew. Last year we heard from Mark, and 2027 will be mostly readings from Luke. How do we fit 4 Gospel writers into 3 years? We use the **Gospel of John** for the **Lent and Easter seasons**. So for March, April, and May, we leave Matthew's focus on promises fulfilled in Christ, and we turn to John's poetic focus on the signs that reveal Jesus as the divine "I AM" – God in the flesh.*

*If you read John's Gospel straight through, there are three main parts:*

*\* The book of SIGNS (Chapters 2-12 begin with the water turned to wine and the words, "Jesus did this, the first of his signs..." in 2:11)*

*\* The book of GLORY (Chapters 13-19; the word "glory" in John always refers to the cross – its mysterious and miraculous sacrifice.)*

*\* Prologue and Epilogue: Christmas and Easter, in which signs of glory are shown in the Incarnation (God entering the world in flesh) and Resurrection (God transforming the world in new life).*

*In Lent, we will hear stories of Jesus breaking the rules of this world and going toward the cross because of his threatening non-conformity and his signs of power. These include giving sight to the blind man, welcome to the Samaritan woman, and new life to Lazarus. Jesus is bold and yet endangered in this world – the cross is given "glory" only through suffering and rejection.*

*In worship we not only hear about Jesus, we **encounter** him through the lifting up of the Word, our honoring God through praise, and receiving Christ in Communion as body broken and blood shed. Through Word and Sacrament, we encounter **signs and salvation**.*

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SEASON

During the Lenten season, we are called to question and ponder things for which we do not necessarily know the answers. This can challenge and open us to uncertainty, unsettled feelings, and make us uncomfortable. As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, it is important to keep in mind that

which is unquestionably true: God loves us and embraces us. God uses everything—even times of uncertainty—to love and connect with us. Thanks be to God!

## PRELUDE

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GATHERING

In the name of the Father who loves us, the Son who died for us; and the Holy Spirit who guides us. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

Scripture says that God created us in his own image, yet because of our human condition we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. Where have we gone wrong? How have we harmed our relationship with God, our neighbor, and ourselves? *(Silence for reflection)*

**Almighty God, we know that we have harmed each other and damaged our relationship with you. We fear that admitting our sins will only drive us deeper into isolation. We create distractions to hide what we have done. We point fingers at the faults of others. Lord, you are perfect and holy; but we are imperfect and broken. What have we done?** *(Silence for reflection)*

Even when we sin, God does not accuse. The Lord only asks what we have done so we can set down our guilt welcome us back. Our Savior + Jesus Christ died to reveal the limitless depth of God's love. You can doubt this love, but you can never change the truth of it. God knows all and forgives all. The only question that remains is whether we can accept this love that is so freely given. **Lord, we embrace your mercy and thank you for always being with us, even during the darkest of times. Amen.**

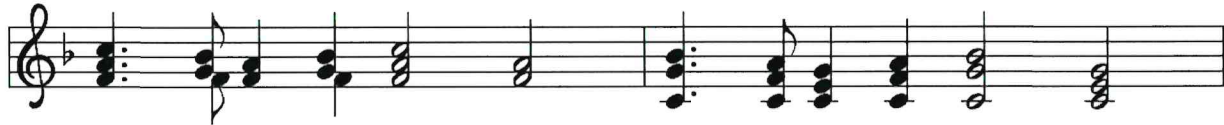
## OPENING HYMN

## GREETING

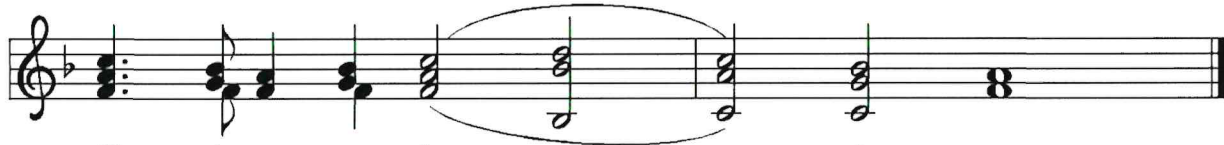
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



# KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.  
 2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.  
 1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.  
 2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

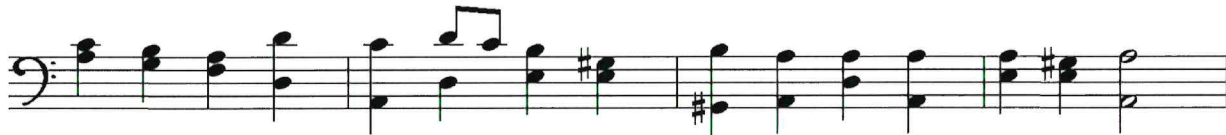


Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 Chris - te e - le - i - son.  
 Lord, . . . have mer - cy.  
 Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

## On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - raise.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,

is my life, my hope's foun-da-tion, all my glo-ry and sal - va - tion!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... **Amen**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

*Please be seated.*

### Our Bible readings for Lent:

**February 22:** Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

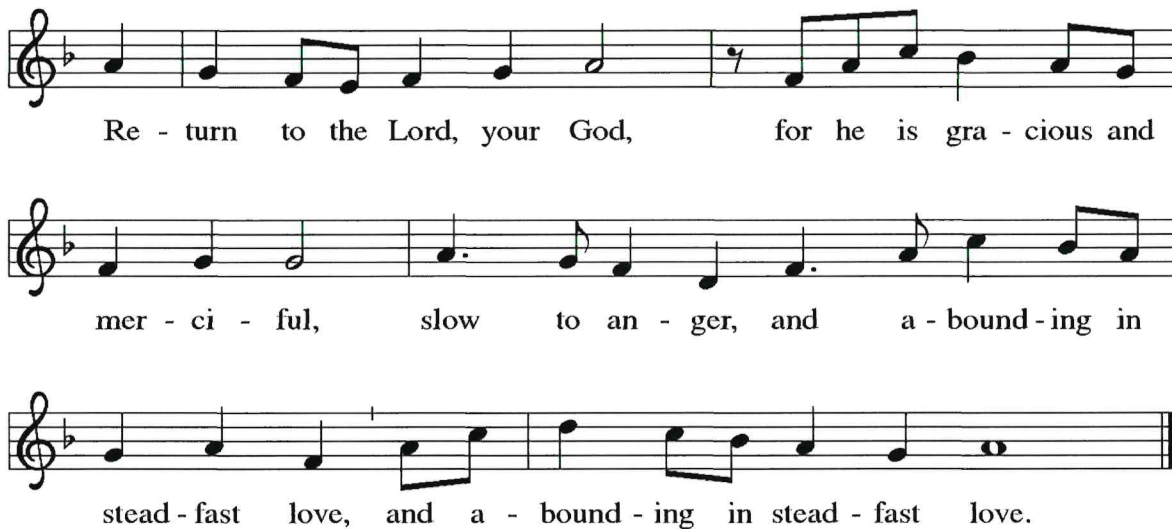
**March 1:** Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5 and 13-17, John 3:1-17

**March 8:** Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

**March 15:** Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

**March 21:** Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

**PSALM** *Spoken during Lent. We invite you to read responsively with the congregation reading the even numbered verses. Psalms are #1-150 in the hymnal with numbers at top of page.*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING:****Response After Reading:** The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***Please stand as you are able.***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_ chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL:****Response After Gospel:** The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***Please be seated.***SERMON**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.***HYMN****THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

For some, the Apostles' Creed can be like liturgical muscle memory and recited without thinking. During this Lenten season, we ask you to affirm your faith by answering questions so you might truly consider what you believe. If you feel unable to affirm your faith today, listen to those around

you. Borrow some faith from them as we share these ancient words.

Do you believe in God who made us?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe God sent a child named Jesus to save this world?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was  
buried;  
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe the Holy Spirit guides our faith and empowers the church today?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Each petition of the prayer concludes with these words:

**P) Merciful God, C) receive our prayer.**

## **OFFERING PREPARATION**

Let us prepare ourselves with a moment of prayer.

**God, prepare us to give to each other and to you. Give us boldness so that we might ask our neighbors what they truly need, and give us humility so we might listen to their answers. Give us generosity so others can benefit from the gifts we offer to You, and give us abundance so that all who are hungry are nourished and satisfied. Amen.**

## **OFFERING & OFFERTORY**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **God, what You will do with these gifts we may never know.**

**Use them so that what we give today will grow and spread Your mercy and love. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Where is our God? **God is here in this place.**

Where are your hearts? **We have given them to the Lord.**

What shall we do in the presence of our God? **We will give our thanks & praise.**

Praise and thanks go to you, O God, for since the beginning of time Your people have wondered what Your Spirit could bring forth: Sky and sea? Sun and moon? Land, plants and animals? People in your divine image? The answer is that everything You made was good.

**From the first days the Israelites were enslaved, they questioned if Your power would set them free. When they were hungry and You sent them mysterious food, they asked "What is it?" You answered their questions with goodness and life sustaining care.**

Out of your love for our salvation, you sent to us Jesus, a savior who welcomed questions about the faith. When everyday people met Him and asked, "Are You the Messiah?" When religious leaders heard His teachings and wondered, "Can these words come from the God we know?" Is our God loving? Does our God work for the good of those who wait for justice? Does our God bring new life to those who have died?

**The answers were yes, yes, yes.**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (See page 9.)

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night before Jesus died, the disciples had questions and were hungry for answers. They wondered where they should prepare the meal and what would happen next. And as Jesus spoke of impending betrayal, each of them wrestled with a personal question: Is it me? What Jesus did around a table that night meant that they never had to worry about those questions again.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Jesus' answer was to take bread. He 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.

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we never have to question Your love for us, O Lord. Send Your Spirit into this meal and into our hearts, so that we will become people who delight in what you have done and joyfully wonder what you shall make of us today.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Jesus, You spoke to us to ask You for anything we need. So, we pray . . .

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Your Name,**

God, you created all things and hold us in the palm of your hand.

**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

God, you are anywhere and everywhere, beyond the stars and the moon; you are here with us today and in all places.

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

For you are with the hungry and the oppressed, and wherever people are in need.

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

Help us to know when we have sinned and turn us to you for forgiveness.

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

Use us as instruments of Your peace and help us to see the possibilities before us.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

Help us to work for the coming of your kingdom. In Your name we pray.

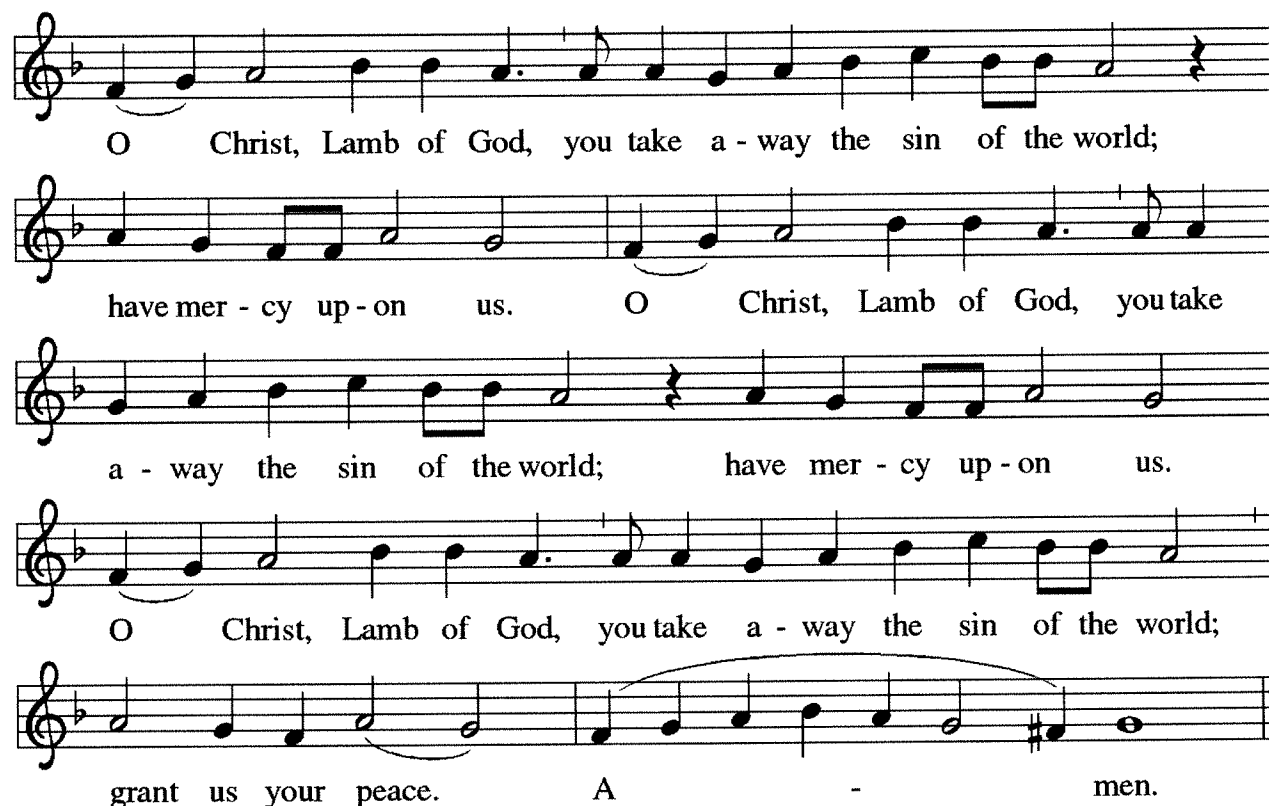
**Amen**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

If you wonder if God really wants you at this table, Jesus answers yes. Bring your unanswered questions with you, because the Spirit unquestionably calls you to taste the truth of God's love.

## COMMUNION HYMN

*O Christ, Lamb of God*



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take  
 a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - - - men.

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the container on your way to return to your pew. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen**

## **SENDING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please take your papers with announcements home and leave this bulletin in the pew for next week.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **BENEDICTION**

Where can you go that God is not present? **We are always in God's embrace.** What is God's will for you? **For us, for all, and for all time, God's will is goodness and love.**

Go now, in the love of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Ever blessing and ever blest. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.  
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

## **POSTLUDE**

## **DISMISSAL**

Our Lenten journey continues. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*We are glad for your presence today.  
We hope you come again soon!*