

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 24-25, 2024

2nd Sunday in Lent

Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace

Pastor Scott Hackler

OUR MISSION

Proclaiming God's Love, God's Promises,
and the Abundant Life

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MINUTE **" Breaking Bread: Dinner for Six"** **Deborah Frusciano**

PRELUDE **"How Firm a Foundation"** **by Gilbert Martin**

INVOCATION

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

LENT CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Isaiah 43:19-21)*

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the wilderness of this world.

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

We praise God for grace that has saved us.

OPENING HYMN **How Firm a Foundation**

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, / is laid for your
faith in Christ Jesus, the Word! / What more can he say than to you he has said /
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, / for I am your God and will still
give you aid; / I'll strengthen you, help you, / and cause you to stand, / upheld by
my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, / my grace, all-sufficient, shall
be your supply. / The flames shall not hurt you; I only design / your dross to
consume and your gold to refine."

"Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove / my / sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love; / and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn, / like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt. Public Domain.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE This is the Day

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. / We will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made. / We will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANTHEM "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" The Joyful Spirit Singers

PEACE PASSING

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

READING Romans 4:13-25

¹³For the 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.

Word of God, word of life
Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL Mark 8:31-38

¹Then he 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. ²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³But 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." ⁴He 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. ⁵For 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. ⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ⁸Those 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.

SERMON

"Turning Point"

Pastor Scott Hackler

HYMN OF THE DAY "Change My Heart, O God "

Change my heart, O God. / Make it ever true. / Change my heart, O God. / May I be like you. / You are the potter, / I am the clay; / mold me and make me, / this is what I pray. / Change my heart, O God. / Make it ever true. / Change my heart, O God. / May I be like you.

Text: Eddie Espinosa (c) 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (ASCAP) Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

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 into hell.

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.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

responses: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

OFFERING

Sat: "Song"

Sun: "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

**by Edward McDowell
arr. Don Wyrzten**

OFFERING RESPONSE "We are an Offering"

We lift our voices, we lift our hands / We lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering. / Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, /
Lord use our lives they are yours, / We are an offering. / All that
we have, / All that we are, / All that we hope to be, / We give to
you, / We give to you. / We lift our voices, we lift our hands, / We
lift our lives up to you: / We are an offering, we are an offering.

Text: Dwight Liles ©Word Music, Inc. c/o Warner/Chapell Music. Reprinted under CCLI- License 1347924

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

INVITATION

"Come to the Table of Mercy"

Come to the table of mercy, / prepared with the wine and the bread. / All who are hungry and thirsty, / come, and your souls will be fed. / Come at the Lord's invitation; / receive from his nail-scarred hand. / Eat of the bread of salvation; / drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942. Text © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc.; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP). Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

Holy, almighty and merciful God. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We

give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

BLESSING

Beloved, you are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, / tune my heart to sing thy grace; / streams of mercy, never ceasing, / call for songs of loudest praise. / While the hope of endless glory / fills my heart with joy and love, / teach me ever to adore thee; / may I still thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer: / "Hither by thy help I've come"; / and I hope, by thy good pleasure, / safely to arrive at home. / Jesus sought me when a stranger, / wand'ring from the fold of God; / he, to rescue me from danger, / interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor / daily I'm constrained to be; / let that grace now like a fetter / bind my wand'ring heart to thee. / Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; / prone to leave the God I love. / Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; / seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790. Public Domain.

Choir Director	Ken Carnes
Pianist	Sue Hunter
Choir Accompanist	Sandy Hobbs
Online Scripture Reader	Judy Butz
	Phil Nelson
Saturday Usher Coordinator	Glenda Jones
Sunday Usher Coordinator	Rich Frusciano
Audio/Lighting	Richard Johnson
	Larry & Lorri Mohrweis
	David Weeks

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Visitors, Guests and Friends! Let us know that you are here by using this QR code. We are so happy that you have joined us in worship.



WELCOME SESSIONS are an opportunity for new and long-time visitors to learn about our church and how you can be more connected and committed to our ministry. You will meet other prospective members, learn about our vision, mission and values, our plans and our various ministries. Our next Welcome Session is Monday, March 4th from 10am - noon. So that we may have sufficient materials, please call the church office (623-977-6000, ext. 100) to register. Hope to see you there!

WOMEN'S RETREAT, MONDAY, MARCH 4, 8:30am-7:30pm.

Register for the Women's retreat this weekend and next. The focus will be the Sermon on the Mount and particularly the Beatitudes. How can we apply Jesus' words into our daily lives? Chaplain Cyndy Warnier will be your leader.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY The next gathering will be at 10am on February 28th. Based on her book, Resistant Hope: Fighting Back Against Suffering, Pastor Elaine Siemsen will be leading us for the next two weeks. Where is God in the times of our suffering? The discussion will be about God, our suffering and where can we find Hope.

TICKETS FOR LIBERTY QUARTET CONCERT Sunday, March 10 @ 6 pm. FREE Tickets are available in the narthex. Please return any that are not going to be used to the fellowship team.

AZ DIAMONDBACKS VS TEXAS RANGERS Spring Training Game. The Fellowship Team has 3 tickets available that have been turned in. The game is on Thursday, March 7 @ 1:05 pm. Our seating is in the Legion's Section. Cost: \$52 includes special seating ticket, lunch, and a drink. Call 480-438-1115 for the tickets.

THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL: TRAVEL TO GREECE AND TURKEY

Join Pastor Scott and visit the footsteps of the Apostle Paul in Greece and Turkey. The 10-day trip will include four-day cruise exploring Greek islands and a visit to Ephesus, Turkey. Go to the link on our website.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS February 25 Reminder: Bring your donations to the Valley View Community Food Bank next Sunday. *Whoever is kind to the needy honors God.* Proverbs 14:31

MEN'S BREAKFAST FEB. 27, 8AM We are offering biscuits and gravy and hash browns. There will of course be the usual juice, fruit cup, pastries and coffee. Bruce Belanger will lead the men in discussing selected scripture lessons. Please sign up to attend on clipboard in the Narthex.

GRIEFSHARE

Thursdays until April 18th from 10:00am - 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. To register Call: Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church (623)977-6000 or online at griefshare.org. Deborah Frusciano: 602-909-8369.

GIFTS OF HOPE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT CAMPAIGN ran from November 18, 2023 – January 5, 2024. This year our church raised \$29,080. (This total is different from what was listed in the newsletter due to the discovery of an omitted donation.) Over the campaign's 21-year history we have raised a total of \$702,244. Our gifts' scope of support was once again in education, healthcare and nutrition for our sisters and brothers in need in Africa. As we did last year, Gifts of Hope's fundraising efforts included a Ministry Minute talk in church, a brochure/donation form, newsletter articles, bulletin paragraphs as well as the church website and an email blast to church members. Our committee and our contacts for the supported African projects all sincerely thank the generosity of our gracious congregation and the continued support of our pastors and office staff.

Kerstin Smith and Winnie Fritz, Gifts of Hope Co-Chairs

SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR
February 24 – March 3

Saturday, February 24

5:00 pm Service

Sunday, February 25

8:00 am Service

10:00 am Service

Monday, February 26

Tuesday, February 27

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

9:00 am Staff meeting

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry

*By appointment only
with Dr. Joe Dramise

3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal

4:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 28

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

10:00 am Bible Study

Thursday, February 29

9:00 am Online Worship

video recording

10:00 am GriefShare

Friday, March 1

9:30 am Bulletin Assemble

Saturday, March 2

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, March 3

8:00 am Worship

10:00 am Worship