

**SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**March 9-10, 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> 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

**PRELUDE**

**"Wondrous Love"**

**arr. David N. Johnson**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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 God and rejoice!**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**We praise God for grace that has saved us.**

**OPENING HYMN**                      **Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

Jesus, keep me near the cross, / there's a precious fountain; / free to all, a healing stream / flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross / be my glory ever; / till my ransomed soul shall find / rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, / love and mercy found me; / there the bright and morning star / sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, / bring its scenes before me; / help me walk from day to day / with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, / hoping, trusting ever, / till I reach the golden strand / just beyond the river. *Refrain*

## **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**

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **ANTHEM                                      "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"**

written by Ken Medena sung by The Joyful Spirit Singers

## **PEACE PASSING**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **READING    Numbers 21:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for

the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life

**Thanks be to God!**

### **THE GOSPEL     John 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON     "For God...the World...who Believes"**

**Pastor Scott Hackler**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY     "Lift High the Cross "**

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim / till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, / our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign, / the hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified / bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, / as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be: / praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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## **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 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"** 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.

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## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

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.**

## **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.

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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 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross / on which the prince of glory died, / my richest gain I count but loss / and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast / save in the death of Christ, my God; / all the vain things that charm me most, / I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, / sorrow and love flow mingled down. / Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, / or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, / that were a present far too small; / love so amazing, so divine, / demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Public Domain.

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Choir Director          | Ken Carnes   |
| Pianist                 | Sue Hunter   |
| Choir Accompanist       | Sandy Hobbs  |
| Online Scripture Reader | Lyla Dramise |
| Video Production        | Jerry Huston |

## 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, April 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

**BIBLE STUDY: EXPERIENCING REVELATION** – Join us in the Fellowship Hall this Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, when Rev. Dr. Peter S. Perry will present his first class. Come discuss the experience of the book of Revelation. Invite your family and friends – *everyone is welcome!*

## **THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL: TRAVEL TO GREECE**

Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> @11am there will be an information meeting with our travel host Elias from Elias Tour. This trip is an opportunity to join Pastor Scott and Miriam to visit the footsteps of the Apostle Paul in Greece. The 10-day trip will include four-day cruise exploring Greek islands and a stop at Ephesus, Turkey. Go to the link on our website.

**GRIEFSHARE** – Thursdays until April 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS** – Nearly half of all adults in the United States have high blood pressure. Your risk for high blood pressure goes up as you get older. So before heading out to your favorite restaurant for breakfast, get your blood pressure checked – it only takes a few minutes! Blood pressures will be checked Sunday, MARCH 17, immediately following each service.

### **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**March 28<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday** worship service at 5:00 pm with communion

**March 29<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday** worship service at 5:00 pm

**Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, NO worship service**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, Easter Sunday** worship services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am with communion.

### **SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR**

**March 9 – March 17**

#### **Saturday, March 9**

5:00 pm Service

#### **Sunday, March 10**

8:00 am Service

10:00 am Service

#### **Monday, March 11**

9:30 am Martha circle

1:00 pm Mary circle

#### **Tuesday, March 12**

9:00 am Staff meeting

9:30 am Rachel Circle

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry

\*By appointment only  
with Dr. Joe Dramise

3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal

4:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

#### **Wednesday, March 13**

9:00 am Counseling Ministry\*

\*By appointment only  
with Dr Joe Dramise

10:00 am Bible Study

#### **Thursday, March 14**

9:00 am Online Worship

9:30 am Deborah Circle  
video recording

10:00 am GriefShare

1:00 pm Elizabeth Circle

#### **Friday, March 15**

9:30 am Bulletin Assemble

#### **Saturday, March 16**

5:00 pm Worship

#### **Sunday, March 17**

8:00 am Worship

10:00 am Worship