

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 16-17, 2024

5th 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

**"Opus 55 No.7"
"What Wondrous Love"**

**Written by Edward McDowell
arr. Marvin Gaspard**

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 (Psalm 105:1-4)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,

Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to the Lord,

Tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name,

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the strength of our God.

Seek God's presence continually.

OPENING HYMN

O God of Mercy, God of Light

O God of mercy, God of light, / in love and mercy infinite, / teach us, as ever in your sight, / to live our lives in you.

You sent your Son to die for all, / that our lost world might hear your call; / oh, hear us lest we stray and fall! / We rest our hope in you.

Teach us the lesson Jesus taught: / to feel for those his blood has bought, / that ev'ry deed and word and thought / may work a work for you.

For all are kindred, far and wide, / since Jesus Christ for all has died; / grant us the will, and grace provide, / to love them all in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, 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

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.

ANTHEM "The Old Rugged Cross" Sung by Men's Quartet

PEACE PASSING

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

READING Jeremiah 31-31-34

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.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL John 12:20-33

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. ²⁷Now 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.

SERMON

"Seeds of Hope"

Pastor Elaine Siemsen

HYMN OF THE DAY "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy "

There's a wideness in God's mercy, / like the wideness of the sea; / there's a kindness in God's justice / which is more than liberty. / There is no place where earth's sorrows / are more felt than up in heav'n. / There is no place where earth's failings / have such kindly judgment giv'n.

There is welcome for the sinner, / and a promised grace made good; / there is mercy with the Savior; / there is healing in his blood. / There is grace enough for thousands / of new worlds as great as this; / there is room for fresh creations / in that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader / than the measures of our mind; / and the heart of the Eternal / is most wonderfully kind. / But we make this love too narrow / by false limits of our own; / and we magnify its strictness / with a zeal God will not own.

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; / it is something more than all: / greater good because of evil, / larger mercy through the fall. / Make our love, O God, more faithful; / let us take you at your word, / and our lives will be thanksgiving / for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

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: "Spirit of the Living God"**
Sun: "You Die for Me" Elaine & Dennis Siemsen

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

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, / fill our hearts with joy and peace; / let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. / Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, / trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration / for your gospel's joyful sound. / May the fruits of your salvation / in our hearts and lives abound. / Ever faithful, ever faithful / to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us / from our struggling pilgrim way, / let no fear of death appall us, / glad your summons to obey. / May we ever, may we ever / reign with you in endless day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt. Public Domain.

Choir Director	Ken Carnes
Pianist	Sue Hunter
Choir Accompanist	Sandy Hobbs
Online Scripture Reader	Terry Pierce
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, April 8th 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!

LIVING WELL WITH OLDER EYES – please join us April 3, 10:00 am with Dennis W. Siemsen on how to protect your vision and reduce the risk for long term complications.

BIBLE STUDY: EXPERIENCING REVELATION – Join us in the Fellowship Hall Wednesday, March 20th, when Rev. Dr. Peter S. Perry will present his second class. Come discuss the experience of the book of Revelation. Invite your family and friends – *everyone is welcome!*

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.

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.

HEARING ASSISTANCE – Trouble hearing at worship service? Stop in at the Audio Room at the back of the sanctuary and you'll be fitted with our new equipment. All hearing sets are sanitized before each person uses them.

YOUTUBE - If you can't make it to in person to our Saturday or Sunday service Spirit of Grace is on YouTube. If you enjoy the content don't forget to 'like, subscribe, or hit the notification bell' and you'll be notified when videos are posted. You can watch or hear the service from the comfort of your bed, backyard or even when on the road.

GAME TIME - Get ready for GAME DAY! April 14 at 1:30 pm for only \$5. Tickets go on sale this weekend. Come & enjoy fun, laughter and good fellowship playing Joker, BUNCO and Dominoes along with some snacks. Don't know how to play? No problem, instruction included.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, March 26th On the menu this month we have bacon, eggs casserole, hash browns, fresh fruit cup, orange juice, coffee and pastry. Come early for coffee and fellowship beginning at 8:00 am, with breakfast served about 8:25 am. As usual, there will be a devotional discussion after the meal. Don't forget to sign up.

FLOWERS - In memory and celebration of the life of her husband Thomas from Denna Patrick. Jeannie and Mick Ayers celebrating their 61st wedding Anniversary. Bill and Barb Lyes are celebrating 230 years of Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE CHANGE – Starting April 7th there will be only one service at 9:30 am.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 28th, Maundy Thursday 5:00 pm with Communion

March 29th, Good Friday "Tenebrae Service" 5:00 pm

Saturday, March 30th, there will not be a 5pm worship service

March 31st, Easter Sunday worship services at 8:00am and 10:00am.

SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR
March 16 – March 24

Saturday, March 16

5:00 pm Service

Sunday, March 17

8:00 am Service
10:00 am Service

Monday, March 18

9:00 am Voting

Tuesday, March 19

5:00 am Voting
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, March 20

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*
*By appointment only
with Dr Joe Dramise
10:00 am Bible Study

Thursday, March 21

9:00 am Online Worship
10:00 am GriefShare

Friday, March 22

9:30 am Bulletin Assemble

Saturday, March 23

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, March 24

8:00 am Worship
10:00 am Worship