

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Lenten Midweek 4

March 24th, 2022

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"
Ephesians 2:8



Image: "Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." (Joel 2:13)

Welcome to Grace!
We're Glad You've Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins & worship activity bags (age 2-8) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our church narthex and entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the **Prayer Request Sheet** found on the podium in the narthex.

We're glad you're with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

As We Gather—"Return to the Lord Who Will Raise You Up"

Our God is reliable. In the Garden of Eden, God promised the Savior from sin, and He fulfilled that promise on the cross. He is eternal, unchanging, and faithful. Even while we are not reliable, we can rely on Him in every situation, and we can rely on Him to stay steadfast through cross and grave. In Lent, we see the full measure of our Lord's reliability for us.

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service...*as outlined in your bulletin*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 25:1-5*

Pastor: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

People: **O my God, in You I trust;**

Pastor: let me not be put to shame;

People: **let not my enemies exult over me.**

Pastor: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;

People: **they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

Pastor: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord;

People: **teach me Your paths.**

Pastor: Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

People: **for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6-12; Mark 16:16*

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

People: **I am by nature sinful and unclean.**

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: **I confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You.**

Pastor: According to Your steadfast love remember me,

People: **I have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: For the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

People: **I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them.**

Pastor: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

People: I flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.

People: Have mercy on me and for His sake grant me remission of all my sins.

Pastor: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

People: For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Pastor: Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will He instruct in the way that he should choose. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

People: Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Sit

☩ WORD ☩

PASSION INTRODUCTION

Pastor: The third section of the Passion Narrative takes us to the palace of the High Priest. The Gospels record how in the middle of the night Jesus was taken before the gathering of the chief priests and the whole religious Council of Jerusalem. This dramatic section is like a first-person news report, recording the actual conversation that goes on as part of the interrogation of Jesus. A large part of this narrative is the denial of Jesus by Peter. At a crucial moment, this spokesman for the disciples denies even knowing the Savior. In this Lenten season, we may be presented with special opportunities to witness to our Lord. May we be ready and willing at all times to call Jesus our Lord! We prepare for the hearing of the narrative this week by singing "*Christ, the Life of All the Living.*" The hymn text was written by Ernst Christoph Homburg, a German lawyer, in 1659. It was translated into English by Catherine Winkworth, a gifted British educator. Miss Winkworth lived from 1827 to 1878, when she died in Geneva. She brought a great interest in German hymns to the English-speaking world, and her work has received great appreciation over many years.



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
 3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
 4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
 cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
 all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
 shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
 O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
 Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
 All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
 God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
 might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
 That from pain I might be free;
 Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
 Thence I gain security;
 Comfortless Thy soul did languish
 Me to comfort in my anguish.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
 And hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixion,
 Fully to atone for me;
 Thou didst choose to be tormented
 That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

PASSION READING *Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book*

Pastor: Those who had arrested Jesus brought Him to the high priest's house, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed Him afar off, and so did another disciple. That disciple was known to the high priest and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So that other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. He went in and sat with the servants to see the end. He was warming himself at the fire they had kindled in the middle of the courtyard.

Meanwhile, the chief priests and the whole council were seeking evidence that might make the case for a death sentence, but they could not find any. Many bore false witness against Him, but their statements did not agree. Two stepped forward and said, "We heard Him say, 'I shall destroy this temple made with hands and after three days I shall build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their evidence did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up, moved to the center, and put this question to Jesus, "Do You have no answer? What is this evidence they have given against You?" But He was silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest put a question to Him and said, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

Jesus said, "I am. You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God's power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

The high priest tore his garments and said, "Do we still need any witnesses? You have heard this blasphemy. What is your opinion?" They all agreed that He was deserving of death.

Then some of them began to spit on Him; they blindfolded Him, struck Him, and said to Him, "Prophesy to us, O Christ, who is it that struck You?" The guards beat Him as they took Him away.

Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maidservants of the high priest came and saw Peter warming himself. She looked at him closely as he sat in the light of the fire, and said, "You also were along with the Man from Nazareth, that Jesus."

Peter denied it and said, "I do not know what you mean." He went out to the forecourt.

Another maidservant saw him there and said to those who were standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Peter denied it again with an oath, “I do not know the Man.”

A little later those standing around said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them. You are a Galilean. Your accent gives you away.”

Peter started calling down curses on himself and swore, “I do not know the Man.” And immediately while he was still speaking, the cock crowed a second time, and the Lord turned and looked on Peter. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” Peter broke down, and went out, and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was morning the chief priests with the elders and the scribes held the court session with all the Sanhedrin. Then they bound Him, led Him away, and turned Him over to Pilate. Then Judas, who had betrayed Him, when he saw that He was condemned, was sorry and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.”

They said, “What is that to us? That is your affair.” Judas threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed. He went and hanged himself.

The chief priests took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.” They took counsel and bought with them the potter’s field to bury strangers in. That is why to this day that field has been called “the field of blood.”

In this way was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him on whom a price had been set by the children of Israel, and gave them for the potter’s field.”

PSALM *Psalm 113:1, 5-8 (spoken responsively)*

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants | of the LORD,*
praise the name | of the LORD!

Who is like the | LORD our God,*
who is seated | on high,

who looks | far down*
on the heavens | and the earth?

He raises the poor | from the dust*
and lifts the needy from the | ash heap,

to make them sit with | princes,*
with the princes of His | people.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

FIRST READING *Hosea 6:1-6*
(God desires love and not sacrifice.)

“Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.” What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *2 Corinthians 4:13-18*
(God will raise us with Jesus and bring us to His presence.)

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

THIRD READING *John 6:35-40*

(Jesus promises to raise His people up on the Last Day.)

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

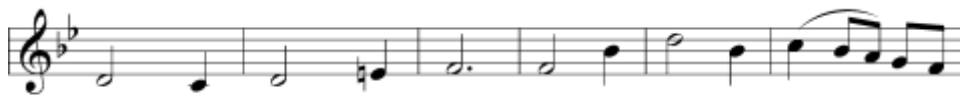
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN 427

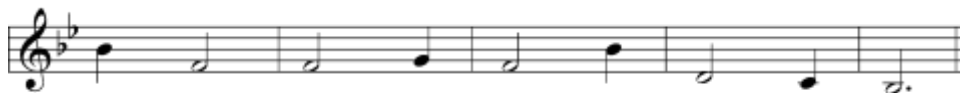
In the Cross of Christ I Glory (vs. 1-4)



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
 mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

SERMON: “Return to the Lord, Who Will Raise You Up” (Hosea 6:1-6)

REFLECTION

Pastor: We reflect today on the words “*Raises Up.*” Often pilgrims on a journey will begin as individuals but as time and travel go on will join with others who are headed to the same destination. Traveling together and sharing in common experiences and conversation lifts the spirit and makes the miles pass more quickly. In this Lenten season, the Holy Spirit travels with us as we follow the steps of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on His suffering for us. God raises us up and encourages us on our journey through life on the way to His eternal kingdom.

HYMN 422

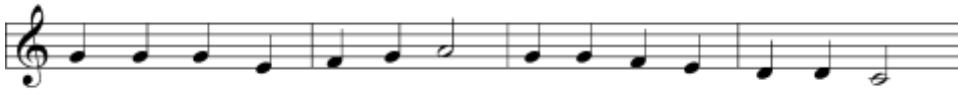
On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;



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



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

OFFERING/ATTENDANCE As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord's Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting: **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our website at: graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write '*online giving*' on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Stand

OFFERTORY 956

Create in Me



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new



a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way



from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious and merciful God, we turn to You, praying for the nations of the world and Your good creation. We fear the wars and civil strife, the rising seas and severe droughts that may occur.

People: Strengthen our faith and give us hope. Instill a desire for peace and justice in the leaders of the nations, and awaken in us all a sense of devotion to the care of Your good creation.

Pastor: Redeeming Lord, we turn to You, praying for all who are denied human dignity for any reason and all who are enslaved to their personal addictions.

People: Open their hearts and minds to the truth of the freedom from sin You won for us. Release them from individual prisons of every kind. May they break forth in joy for their newfound freedom.

Pastor: Hope of the hopeless, we turn to You, praying that You be with all who are frustrated by inadequate housing, unemployment, and isolation.

People: Surround them with supportive people of faith and guide them to the resources they need. Restore in them the certainty of Your presence so that they may stand to face whatever the future holds.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we turn to You, praying for those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*] and all who call out to You who are beset with various crises of faith and health.

People: Remind them of our Savior, who overcame death and the grave and rose on the third day. Use the skills You have placed within medical professionals and counselors of all sorts to show Your love, unknown to them in their present hour.

Pastor: O Thou who changest not, we turn to You, praying for those who have strayed from the family of faith.

People: Open their ears to hear You calling them home. Surround them with people to speak Your Word and demonstrate Your care. May they ponder anew what the Almighty can do.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, we turn to You who tires not in inviting us to return, praying for all who are burdened with guilt or shame.

People: Remind them that it is the Savior who calls; let every ear hear and respond, confessing their sins in the sure hope of gracious forgiveness.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You returned to Jerusalem, passionate in Your mission to show mercy and love.

People: Gather us as a hen gathers her chicks that the whole Church may rejoice together under Your eternal protection.

Pastor: O Word of God Incarnate, You were sent by the Father to do His will.

People: **We give thanks that by Your obedient death and resurrection You returned to Him, having accomplished Your mission and offering pardon to all who bring their requests to Him in Your name.**

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

People: 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.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments

People: **and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

Pastor: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

People: **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry
people: a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
 Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping
 that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace. (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

People: Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (vs. 1-5)



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
 2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
 5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The



did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that
 groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
 shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y
 His dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in
 debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
 grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
 mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.
 thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
 self a - way: 'Tis all that I can do.

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

“Return to the Lord!”

Join us for this exciting series as we meditate upon Christ’s passion in dying on the cross to save us from our sins. The Lenten Services following Ash Wednesday will be on Thursday nights at 6:30pm without communion. Here is an overview of the series:

Thursday, March 31st 6:30pm - “Return to the Lord, Who Does Not Change” Malachi 3:6–12

Thursday, April 7th 6:30pm - “Return to the Lord, Who Does Not Tire of Calling You” Amos 4:6–13

Thursday, April 14th 6:30pm w/communion - Maundy Thursday: “The Lord Returns to Jerusalem with Mercy” Zechariah 1:12–17

Friday, April 15th 12:00pm Good Friday Worship no communion - “It Is Finished” John 19:30

Friday, April 15th 6:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service - “The Word of the Lord Returns to Him with Success” Isaiah 55:6–11

Sunday, April 17th 6:00am Easter Sunrise Service, no Communion - “Don’t Seek the Living among the Dead” Luke 24:1–6a

Sunday, April 17th 8:30am & 10:00am Easter Sunday Festival Service w/communion - He Has Risen! He Is *Now* Here! Luke 24:1–12

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

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Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
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