Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin www.graceoakcreek.org

Lenten Midweek 5

March 31st, 2022

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

Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace



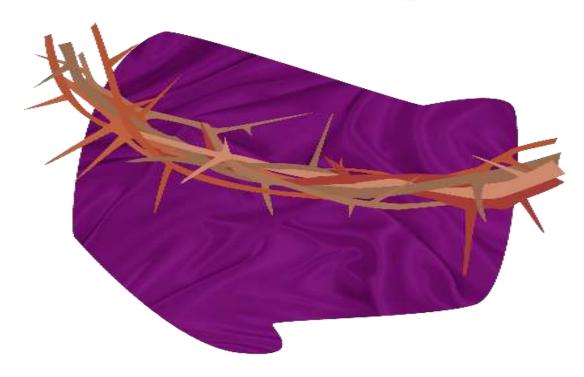


Image: "Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." (Joel 2:13)

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 Does Not Change"

When the prophet Hosea was calling God's people to repentance, he repeatedly urged them, "Come, let us return." They had so many things going wrong that it was obvious that the Lord was disciplining them. Had He not cared about them, He would have left them to run away. But God's love for them—and for us—knows no bounds. He judges only so that we may remember His daily and eternal love—His boundless mercy. Problems might obscure His love, but the cross reminds us of the opposite. When our Savior took our sins to the cross, the Father raised Him up on the third day. As part of the Body of Christ, He has done that for us as well. Today we continue to live in that third day. As Christ lives, so do we. Come, let us return to the Lord, who will raise us up!

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

₩ PRFPARATION ₩

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: 0 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.

CONFESSSION 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

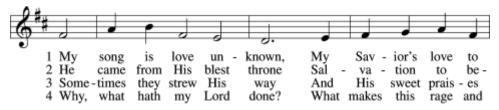
₩ WORD ₩

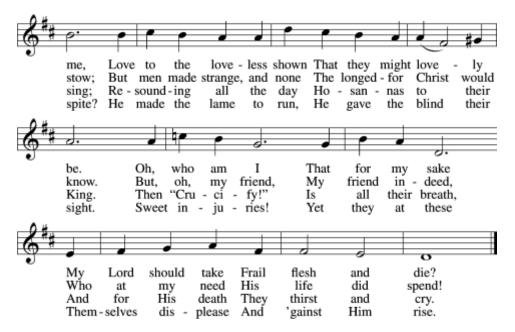
PASSION INTRODUCTION

Pastor: The fourth section of the Passion Narrative taken from the four Gospels starts in the hall of judgment. It is here that we meet Pontius Pilate, a name so familiar to us because we speak it as part of the Creed. We also meet Herod and hear of the release of the notorious prisoner Barabbas. In a meaningful moment, Barabbas is set free and Jesus bears the punishment of the crowd, which is agitated by the chief priests and elders of the people. Jesus takes the punishment at that moment, just as He will take the punishment that pays the price of our sins at the cross. To prepare for the hearing of this week's narrative section, we sing the hymn "My Song Is Love Unknown." Although the text is relatively new to usage in Lutheran hymnals, the words are from a poem written by English clergyman Samuel Crossman in 1664. One of the British king's royal chaplains, Samuel Crossman used his ability with words to capture a deep devotional feeling that is as meaningful in the twenty-first century as it was when first written in the middle of the seventeenth century.

PASSION HYMN 430

My Song Is Love Unknown (vs. 1-7)





5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

- 6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was His home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

PASSION READING Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book

Pastor: When they had bound Jesus, they led Him from Caiaphas to the hall of judgment and gave Him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor. It was early. They themselves did not go into the judgment hall, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.

Pilate then went out to them, and said, "What charge do you bring against this Man?"

They answered and said to him, "If He were not a criminal, we would not have handed Him over to you."

Then Pilate said to them, "Take Him, then, and judge Him according to your law."

The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." So the word of Jesus was fulfilled, signifying by what death He should die.

The charges they brought against Him were: "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a king."

Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Do you say this for yourself, or did others say it to you about Me?"

Pilate answered, "Do You take me for a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have given You over to me. What have You done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world; if My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would have fought that I should not be given over to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not of this world."

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. I was born and I came into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is of the truth hears My voice."

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no fault in this Man."

The chief priests kept laying one charge after another against Him, but He answered not a word. Pilate questioned Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many charges they lay against You." Jesus answered him not a word. Pilate was utterly amazed. He said to the chief priests and to the crowd, "I find no case against this Man."

They pressed their charges more vehemently: "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judaea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the Man was a Galilean. When he learned that He belonged in Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him on to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem for those days.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was delighted, for he had long wished to see Him because of what he had heard of Him, and he hoped to see Him do a miracle. He questioned Jesus repeatedly, but He gave him no answer. The chief priests and scribes stood there and vehemently accused Him. Herod and his soldiers mocked Him. They put a splendid robe on Him and sent Him back to Pilate.

Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that same day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You have brought this Man before me as one subverting the people. See now, I have examined Him before you and have found nothing in this Man guilty of any of your charges against Him, and neither did Herod, for he sent Him back to us. Mark this, He has done nothing worthy of death. I will have Him punished and release Him."

Now at the feast it was the governor's custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner whom they asked for. They had then a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. He was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection in the city. Pilate knew that it was out of malice that the chief priests handed Jesus over. Therefore he said to them, "Do you want me to release for you Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?"

The chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

Pilate asked them again, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

And they cried out all together, saying, "Away with this Man, and release for us Barabbas."

While Pilate was sitting in the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message: "Do not have anything to do with that Man; I have suffered much over Him today in a dream."

Again Pilate addressed them, for he wished to release Jesus. He said to them, "What shall I do then with Jesus who is called Christ? What shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?"

They all cried out, "Crucify Him!"

Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no guilt worthy of death in Him; I will therefore punish Him and let Him go."

They cried out all the louder, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. The soldiers of the governor led Him away into the praetorium. They gathered the whole band of soldiers around Him. They stripped Him and put a purple robe on Him. When they had woven a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and a reed in His right hand, and they knelt before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on Him

and took the reed and struck Him on the head. They knelt down and did Him homage.

Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I bring Him out to you that you may know I find Him not guilty." So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"

When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I do not find Him guilty."

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was more afraid and went again into the judgment hall and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You refuse to speak to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and I have power to release You?"

Jesus answered, "You would not have any power at all over Me, unless it had been given to you from above. For that reason he who handed Me over to you has the greater sin."

This prompted Pilate to go on trying to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you let this Man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement or, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was the Preparation of the Passover, about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your king!"

They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!"

Pilate said unto them, "Shall I crucify your king?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but rather a riot was under way, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this Man; see to it yourselves."

Then all the people responded, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Then Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, gave sentence that it should be as they demanded. He released to them Barabbas for whom they asked, the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder. He had Jesus flogged and then gave Him over to their will to be crucified. The soldiers mocked Him, stripped Him of the purple robe, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

PSALM *Psalm 102:1*, *25-28* (*spoken responsively*) Hear my prayer, | O LORD;*

let my cry | come to You!

Of old You laid the foundation | of the earth,* and the heavens are the work | of Your hands.

They will perish, but You | will remain;*
they will all wear out like a | garment.

You will change them like a robe, and they will | pass away,* but You are the same, and Your years | have no end.

The children of Your servants shall | dwell secure;* their offspring shall be established be- | fore You.

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 Malachi 3:6-12 (The unchanging God promises blessings to His people.)

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Hebrews 13:1-8

(Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.)

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Stand

THIRD READING John 17:1-3 (Jesus' High Priestly Prayer)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Apostles' Creed

People: 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,

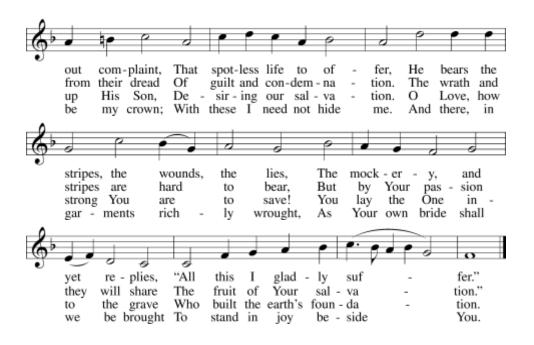
and the life T everlasting. Amen.

Sit

SERMON HYMN 438

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (vs. 1-4)

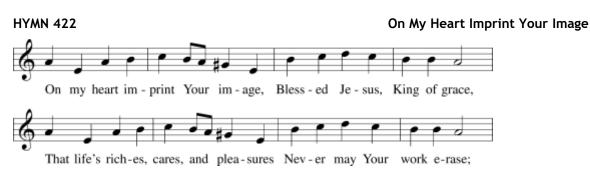


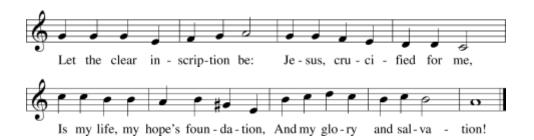


SERMON: "Return to the Lord, Who Does Not Change" (Malachi 3:6-12)

REFLECTION

Pastor: We reflect today on the words "Never Changes." One of the things that is important to people on pilgrimages is the sense of sureness that whatever the goal of their destination, it will be there when the journey is completed. Many things in life are transitory, and the landscapes of our lives often are altered with the passage of time. In this season of Lent, we are reminded that with God there is no uncertainty. His love and care are eternal and changeless.





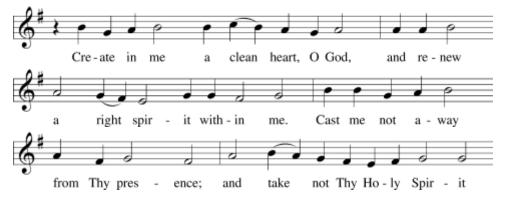
OFFERING/ATTENDANCE As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you 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





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;

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.

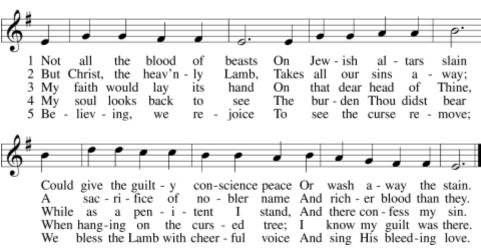
The Lord look upon you with favor and ₹ give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

People: Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN 431

Not All the Blood of Beasts (vs. 1-5)



Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

+ + +

Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

Elders	<u>Thursday</u> Lance Kopperud	Sunday 8:00 am Brandon Dachel	Sunday 10:30 am Richard Jackson
Readers	Suzie Mirenda	Cris Evers	Lisa Kamprath
Communion Set-up Linens	Jennifer Olen Gail Nowakowski	Lynn Buzzell Jennifer Olen	Lynn Buzzell Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolytes</u>			Tatiana Concepcion
<u>Ushers</u>	Jim Robinson	Larry Herte, Andrea Szeflinski, Tommy Szeflinski	Cathy Weeks, Rick Weeks, Amelia Poellet, Dachs Poellet

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, 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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715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home)

thewordendures.blogspot.com

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Director of Music Mrs. Lisa Hengst Choir Director Mrs. Kathy Kolb

Congregation President Mr. Duane Meyer 414-840-1873

Fax: Church/School 414-762-8869

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