Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin www.graceoakcreek.org

Lenten Midweek 6

April 7th, 2022

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

Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace



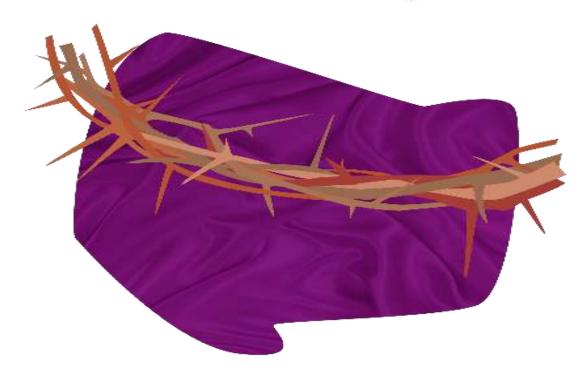


Image: "Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." (Joel 2:13)

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 Tire of Calling You"

How many times must a parent call a child to come home, to clean a room, or simply to listen? How often children do not respond. The same is true for God's people. When God spoke through the prophet Amos, He lamented five times that although He called, "yet you did not return to Me." Our gracious God continues to do that for us. Were He ever to stop, we would find only His judgment crashing down on us when we meet Him at the end of our days. He calls us to repent, to turn around, for He cares so much for us. He yearns to withhold just punishment and never tires of calling us back to Him. In the cross, we see the judgment we deserve meted out on our Savior. There is none left for us. There is no better time than today to return to the Lord, who does not tire of calling 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: 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.

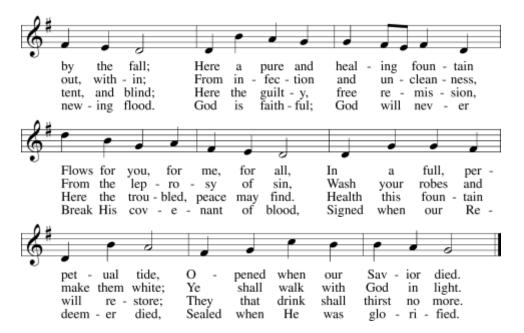
People: Amen.

Sit

PASSION INTRODUCTION

Pastor: The fifth and final section of the Passion Narrative as taken from the four Gospels takes us to Calvary. Although we do not know the exact route of what many call "The Way of Sorrows," we do know of people who lined the way of suffering for Jesus, as He carried His cross from inside the city toward the place beyond the city walls, where the execution would take place. Along the way there are the "daughters of Jerusalem"—the women who lament at the Lord's anguish—and Simon of Cyrene, who makes the journey more bearable by shouldering Jesus' cross. We now follow to the place called Skull Hill and witness His death to pay the price of our sins. All this is for us—and for our salvation! We prepare to hear this Reading as we sing the hymn "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain." The well-known text was written by James Montgomery, who was born in Scotland in 1771. Originally titled "A fountain opened for sin and uncleanness," the hymn is based on the prophetic words in Zechariah 13:1: "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness." It is at Calvary's holy mountain that we are made clean from the stain of sin by the blood of Jesus, our Suffering Servant and Savior.





PASSION READING Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book

Pastor: The soldiers now had charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out of the city to a place called Skull Hill, in Hebrew, *Golgotha*. As they led Him away, they laid hold of Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country. On him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. Following Him was a great company of people and of women who bewailed and lamented Him. Jesus turned to them and said.

"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. The days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck.' Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things with a green tree, what will happen with a dry one?"

There were also two others, criminals whom they led along to be put to death with Him. When they came to the place called Golgotha, they gave Him wine mingled with gall to drink, but when He tasted it, He would not drink it.

It was the third hour, and there they crucified Him.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The two criminals they also crucified with Him—one on His right, the other on His left, with Jesus in the middle. The Scripture was then fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they cast lots to divide His clothes and decide what each should take. They made four parts, one for each soldier. There remained His tunic, which was without seam, woven

in one piece from the top to the bottom. They said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide who shall have it." The Scripture was thus fulfilled which says, "They divided My garments among them and cast lots for My clothing." These things the soldiers did and, sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

Over His head was put the charge against Him. Pilate wrote the notice to be put on the cross. It read, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title was read by many of the Jews, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near to the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "You should not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but 'This Man said, I am the King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

People stood by, watching. Those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself. If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him to one another saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross that we may see and believe. He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He wants Him, for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

The soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him and offering Him wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." The thieves who were crucified with Him also reviled Him. And one of the criminals who hung there with Him railed at Him:

"Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us."

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God since you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are getting what we deserve for what we have done; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise."

Near to the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

When some of them that were standing there heard it, they said, "He is calling for Elijah."

After this, Jesus knew that all things were accomplished. Fulfilling the Scripture He said, "I thirst." There was a jar of wine standing there. One of them ran immediately to get a sponge. He filled it with wine, put it on a reed, held it up to His mouth, and gave it to Him to drink.

Others said, "Wait and see if Elijah will come and save Him."

When Jesus had received the wine, He cried with a loud voice, "It is finished!" Then He said, "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit." Having said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion who stood facing Him saw how He died, He said, "Truly, this Man was the Son of God."

All the people who had gathered to see the sight, when they saw what had happened, turned away beating their breasts. Those who had known Him stood at a distance, as also the women who had followed Him from Galilee. Among them was Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

It was the day of Preparation before the Sabbath, and this was Passover Sabbath. Therefore, so that the bodies should not remain on the crosses during the Sabbath, the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies removed. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. One who saw it is our witness, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth that you also may believe. These things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

By this time evening had come. A respected member of the council, Joseph of Arimathea, was one who was looking for the kingdom of God, a good and righteous man who had not consented to their purpose and deed. He was a disciple of Jesus secretly, for he feared the Jews. Now he took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was astonished that He could be dead already. He called for the centurion and asked him whether Jesus was already dead. When he was assured by the centurion that it was so, Pilate granted Joseph the corpse and commanded that it be given over to him.

Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus. Nicodemus came also, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight. It was he who had first come to Jesus by night. They then took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb, where no one had ever been buried. Joseph laid the body in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock, and rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were sitting there opposite the sepulcher and saw where He was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath day they rested according to the commandment.

On the next day, the day after the Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees went together to Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that imposter said, while He was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command that the sepulcher be made secure until the third day to stop His disciples from coming

and stealing Him and saying to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' making the final deception worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go and make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting a watch.

PSALM *Psalm* 80:1, 14-15, 18-19 (spoken responsively)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph | like a flock!* You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

Turn again, 0 | God of hosts!*

Look down from | heav'n, and see;

have regard for this vine, the stock that Your right hand | planted,* and for the son whom You made strong | for Yourself.

Then we shall not turn | back from You;*
give us life, and we will call up- | on Your name!

Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts!*

Let Your face shine, that we | may be saved!

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 Amos 4:6-13 (The waywardness of God's people)

"I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD. "I also withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would have rain, and the field on which it did not rain would wither; so two or three cities would wander to another city to drink water, and would not be satisfied; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD. "I struck you with blight and mildew; your many gardens and your vineyards, your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD. "I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword, and carried away your horses, and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

"I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD. "Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12

(Paul speaks of how God calls us.)

For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

THIRD READING Matthew 23:37-39

(Jesus laments over Jerusalem.)

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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 T everlasting. Amen.

Sit



SERMON: "Return to the Lord, Who Does Not Tire of Calling You" (Amos 4:6-13)

REFLECTION

Pastor: We reflect today on the words "Is Calling Always." Pilgrims on the way to a holy destination find encouragement in calling out to greet other people who are sharing the way that they are traveling. Frequently groups of people traveling on a journey will help the miles pass by joining in sacred songs on their way. The prophet Amos reminds God's people that He never tires of calling them—that His voice can be heard as His faithful people travel on the highways of life.



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.



OFFERTORY 956 Create in Me



Stand

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.

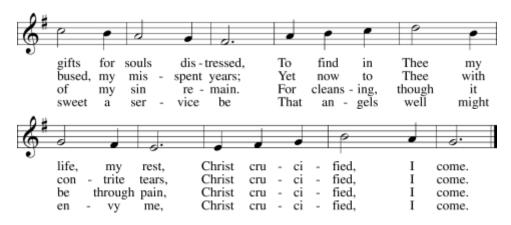
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

People: Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN 560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed (vs. 1-4) cross, which Thou hast blessed the With 1 Drawn to 2 Thou know - est Thy all my griefs and fears. grace a -3 Wash me and take a way each stain; Let noth - ing Which shall so 4 And then for work do for Thee.



Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

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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 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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