

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

Good Friday Noon Service

April 7th, 2023

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

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

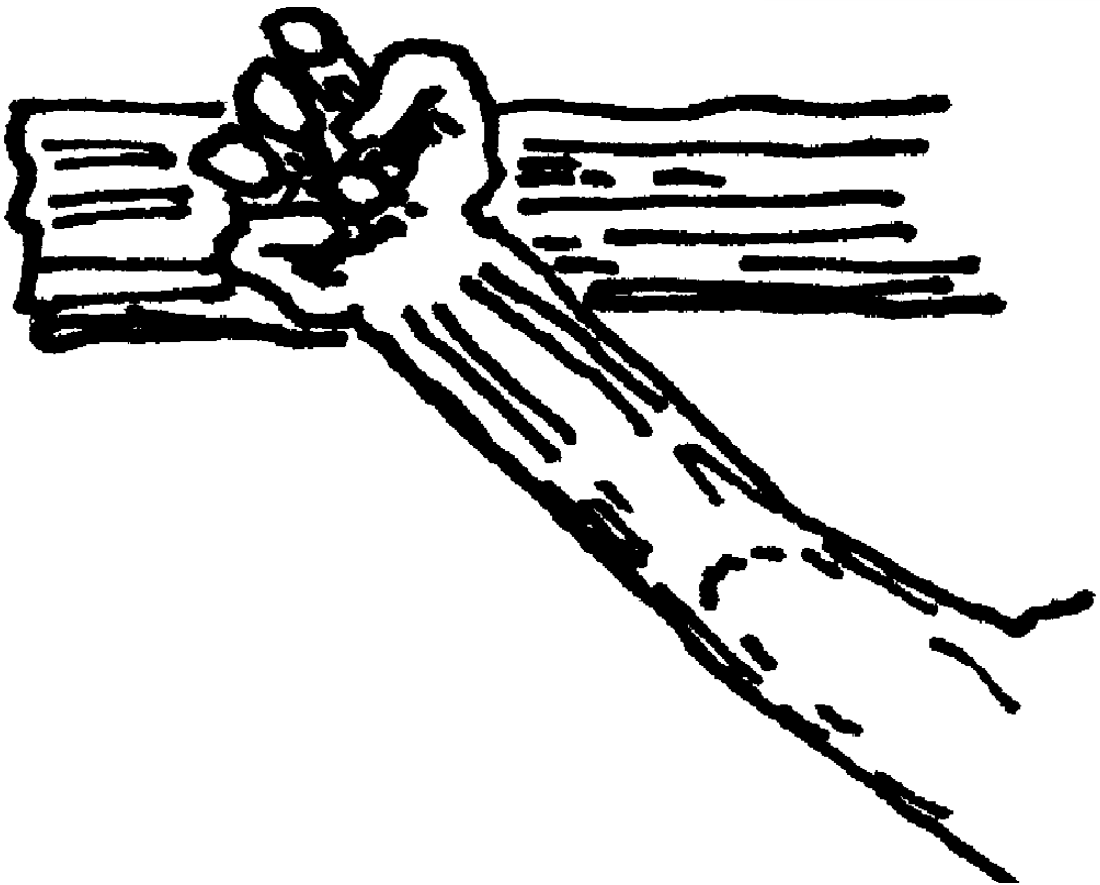


Image: "He was given up to die"

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 your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

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 "From a Distance"

Good Friday is the second part of the three-day service called the Triduum. This Friday we call good is a time of somber reflection as we are attentive to the mystery of the cross. The service seems rather austere in comparison to last night and Easter to come. The fact is that we are celebrating a death only because from that death flow forgiveness and life. We are part of this story, though from a distance. It was for our sins our Lord suffered and died. We may be separated from the actual events by several thousand years, but we are part of this story. It was for us that He suffered and died, and it was to us that He gives the fruits of His suffering and death. As powerful as this message is, the story continues for one more day with one more dramatic event still to come.

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 the bulletin

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *Genesis 3:1-15* (*The Loss of Innocence*)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall"

LSB 562 vs. 1 - 2

SECOND READING *Isaiah 7: 10-14 & Isaiah 9: 2-3, 6-7*

(The Messiah Is Promised)

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel..."

[And Isaiah spoke,] "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end. ...The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING *Matthew 1:18-25*

(The promise is fulfilled.)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

FOURTH READING *Matthew 16:13-16, 21 & Matthew 20:17-19*
(The Savior is welcomed to His mission.)

Matthew 16:13-16

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Matthew 20:17-19

And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way He said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and He will be raised on the third day."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

LSB 443 vs. 1 - 2

FIFTH READING *A harmony of the Gospel accounts adapted from Lutheran Service Book*
(The plot is hatched.)

The festival of the Unleavened Bread called Passover was near. Before the festival, Jesus knew the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had loved His own who were in the world and He loved them to the end. He said to His disciples, "After two days the Passover will be celebrated and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

Then the ruling priest, elders of the people, and the scribes met in the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas. They were looking for some way to arrest Jesus and kill Him but they were afraid the people might riot. So they put it off, waiting until after the festival of the Passover.

Then Satan entered into Judas, one of the Twelve, and he went to the ruling priests and captains of the Temple and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. "What will you give me if I hand Him over to you?" he asked. They were happy to hear it and agreed to give him 30 pieces of silver. He promised to do it and from then on he looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Then came the Festival of the Unleavened Bread and Jesus sat at Passover with His disciples. "I tell you, I will not eat this again until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God," said Jesus.

As the disciples were quarreling among themselves to decide who was greatest, Jesus took a basin of water and began to wash their feet. "Do you know why I have done this? I have given you an example so that you will do as I have done. Whoever would be great should be like the one who serves. I have chosen to be among you as one who serves."

Later Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth; one of you will betray Me." The disciples stared at one another wondering who Jesus meant. Judas who was dipping his food into the dish with Jesus asked, "You do not mean me, do You?" "I do," said Jesus. And Judas left the place.

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Take and eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." After supper, He took the cup and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you. This is My blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this often in remembrance of Me." And after they had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SIXTH READING *A harmony of the Gospel accounts adapted from Lutheran Service Book*
(The condemnation is carried out.)

Judas knew the place where Jesus went and took a troop of soldiers and Temple guards there. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss. "Friend," asked Jesus, "Will you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Then they came and took hold of Jesus, arrested Him, and led Him bound away to the High Priest's palace. First they stopped to see Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas who was High Priest that year.

He inquired of Jesus about Jesus' disciples and teaching. Jesus insisted that He had taught publicly and had not said anything in secret. Still bound, they took Him to Caiaphas. They tried to find a charge which would stick against Jesus but found none. The witnesses disagreed and gave false testimony. Finally two men agreed saying, "He said, 'I will tear down God's Temple and in three days build another'." Still it was not enough.

The High Priest asked Jesus but Jesus did not answer until the High Priest insisted that Jesus swear by the living God that He was the Christ, the Son of the Blessed. To this Jesus said, "I am." At last they had a charge and the priests tore their robes in mock outrage. "He has blasphemed! He is guilty and deserves to die!"

At dawn they brought Jesus before the whole Council and repeated what had taken place. Then they ordered Him over to death and took Him to Pilate. They could not go into Pilate's house or they would be ritually unclean for the Sabbath so Pilate came out to them.

"What is the charge," Pilate asked. "He is a criminal deserving of death," they answered. "Take Him yourselves and judge Him," Pilate responded. But they insisted. So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you King of the Jews?" And Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not of this world." "Then You are a king?" asked Pilate. "I am;" said Jesus, "for this I was born that I might testify to the Truth."

Pilate did not find Jesus guilty of death and did not want to sentence Him to death. When Pilate heard Jesus was from Galilee, He sent Him to Herod who was in Jerusalem for the Festival. Herod was glad to see Jesus and hoped to see a miracle. But Jesus did not say a word to Herod so they took him back to Pilate.

Pilate continued to protest saying, "I have examined this Man and found Him innocent of the things of which you accuse Him. So I will have Him whipped and let Him go."

There was a tradition of releasing one prisoner at the Festival so Pilate asked if he should set Jesus free. "No," the crowd insisted. "Give us Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a ruthless murderer so Pilate asked again if he should let Jesus go. "No," they insisted all the more. "Away with Jesus. Crucify Him!" A third time Pilate asked them and they shouted all the louder, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Their shouts overpowered Pilate.

The soldiers took Jesus' clothes off and mocked Him, placing a scarlet robe on Him, twisting a crown out of thorns, and kneeling in feigned devotion. Pilate brought out Jesus to the crowd again and insisted they look at Him. They cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!" Pilate washed his hands of the guilt of this innocent Man but handed Jesus over to be crucified. Pilate was afraid if he did not go along with the crowd a riot would develop. The soldiers took off the robe and crown and led Him away to be crucified.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

LSB 451 vs. 1 & 3

SEVENTH READING *A harmony of the Gospel accounts adapted from Lutheran Service Book*
(The cross and agony endured)

The soldiers took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. So they took Jesus and led Him out to crucify Him.

He was carrying His own cross. As they were going out, they found a man from Cyrene by the name of Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus. He was on his way in from the country, and as he was about to pass by, they took hold of him, laid the cross on him, and forced him to carry it behind Jesus.

A large crowd of people followed Him. The women in the crowd were beating their breasts and weeping over Him. He turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not continue to cry over Me; rather, cry over yourselves and your children..."

They took Jesus to what was called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh and gall, but when He tasted it, He refused to drink it. They crucified Him there. At the time they crucified two robbers with Him, one at His right and the other at His left, Jesus in the middle. It was nine in the morning when they crucified Him.

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

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier, throwing dice for them to see what each one should get, and the tunic was left over. The tunic was without a seam, woven in one piece from top to bottom. They said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but let's throw dice and see who gets it"-in this way what the Scripture said was fulfilled, "They divided My clothes among them, and for My garment they threw dice." So that is what the soldiers did. Then they sat down there and kept watch over Him.

Pilate also wrote a notice, the accusation that had been written against Him they placed above His head on the cross. It read:

THIS IS JESUS FROM NAZARETH
THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. Therefore the ruling priests of the Jews told Pilate, "Do not write: 'The King of the Jews,' but: 'He said I am the King of the Jews.'"

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

The people stood there watching. Those who passed by ridiculed Him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! You who are going to tear down the Temple and build it in three days--- save Yourself if You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

In the same way the ruling priests together with the scribes and elders sneered and made fun of Him among themselves and said, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He should save Himself if He is the Christ whom God has chosen. If He is Israel's King; He should come down from the cross now, and we shall believe Him. He has put His trust in God, let God rescue Him now if He so wishes, for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

The soldiers also made fun of Him when they went up to Him and offered Him sour wine. They said, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

In the same way the robbers who were crucified with Him also were insulting Him. One of the criminals who was hanging there was mocking Him: "Aren't You the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"

But the other, warning him, asked, "Aren't you afraid of God? You are condemned just as He is. Our punishment is just, for we are getting what we deserve for what we've done, but this One has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to him, "today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Now, His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary from Magdala were standing near the cross of Jesus.

Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near. "Woman," He said to His mother, "there is your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "There is your mother!"

From that time on this disciple took her into his own home.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "O Dearest Jesus"

LSB 439 vs. 1, 4, 5

EIGHTH READING *A harmony of the Gospel accounts adapted from Lutheran Service Book*
(The suffering leads to death.)

It was about noon when darkness came over the whole land, lasting until three in the afternoon, because the sun stopped shining.

About three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?" When they heard Him say that, some of those standing nearby said, "Listen! He calls Elijah."

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to have the words of the Scripture come true, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

A jar full of sour wine was standing there. Immediately one of the men ran, took a sponge, soaked it in sour wine, put it on a hyssop stem, held it to His mouth, and offered Him a drink. The others said, "Let's see if Elijah comes to save Him."

When Jesus had taken the wine, He said, "It is finished!"

And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit." After He said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Just then the inner curtain in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and the bodies of many believers (saints) who had been sleeping were brought back to life. They came out of the tombs after He had risen and went into the Holy City where they appeared to many people.

When the captain who stood facing Jesus saw how He gave up His spirit, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this Man was righteous!" Now when the captain and those watching Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the other things happening, they were terrified. "Certainly this was the Son of God!" they said.

When all the people who had gathered to view this incident saw what was happening, they beat their breasts and turned back.

All His friends, including many women, stood at a distance and watched. Among them were Mary from Magdala and Mary the mother of James the Younger and of Joseph, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. While He was in Galilee, they had followed Him and supported Him. They had followed Jesus from Galilee and had come up to Jerusalem with Him.

Since it was the day of preparation and the Jews did not want the bodies to stay on the crosses on the Sabbath, because that Sabbath was an important day, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the men broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and then of the other who had been crucified with Him.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was dead already, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers stuck a spear into His side, and immediately blood and water came out. He who saw it has testified about it, and his testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth so that you also will believe.

In this way what the Scripture said was fulfilled: "None of His bones shall be broken." And another Scripture passage says: "They will look at Him whom they pierced."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NINTH READING *A harmony of the Gospel accounts adapted from Lutheran Service Book*
(The tomb is secured.)

In the evening there came a rich man by the name of Joseph from Arimathea, a Jewish town. He was an important member of the Jewish council (Sanhedrin), a good and righteous man, who waited for the Kingdom of God. He was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, because he was afraid of the Jews. He had not agreed to their plan of action.

Since it was already evening on the day of preparation, which is the day before the Sabbath, Joseph from Arimathea got up the courage to go to Pilate and ask Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus.

Pilate wondered whether Jesus was already dead. So he called the captain and asked him, "Has He died already?" And when he was assured of this by the captain, Pilate ordered that the body be given to Joseph.

Joseph bought some linen and came and took Jesus' body down. Then Nicodemus also came, the one who had first come to Jesus at night. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about 75 pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in a clean linen cloth according to Jewish custom of burying the dead.

There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was Joseph's own new tomb that he had cut in the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. So they laid Jesus there, because it was the Jewish day of preparation and the Sabbath was just beginning and the tomb was near.

The women who had come with Him from Galilee followed closely behind. Mary from Magdala and the other Mary, the mother of Jesus, were there. Sitting opposite the tomb, they watched where and how His body was laid. After rolling a large stone against the door of the tomb, Joseph went away. Then the women went back and prepared spices and perfumes. But on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

The next day, the day after the day of preparation, the ruling priests and Pharisees met with Pilate. They said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said while He was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, to keep His disciples from coming to steal Him and saying to the people, 'He rose from the dead.' For then the last deception will be worse than the first."

"Take a guard," Pilate told them; "go and make it as secure as you know how." So they went out and secured the tomb by sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

CREED *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 everlasting. Amen.

HYMN "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

LSB 456 vs. 1, 2 & 3

SERMON "From a Distance" (Matt. 27:55)

Sermon Text: *"There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him."* (Matt. 27:55)

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 web-site 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

VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Pastor: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

People: O come, let us worship Him.

Pastor: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

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BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ: Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers we offer before You for all Your servants in Your Holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord: Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty: O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially [name], our President; the Congress of the United States; [name], our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church: Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your Holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's Holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians: Almighty and everlasting God, King of glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation: O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will: O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Pastor: We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(All leave in silence.)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



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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