

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

4th Lenten Midweek Service

March 7th, 2024

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



Image: "O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (*Gradual for Lent*)

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—“*St. John Passion: Whom Do We Follow?*”

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “*We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life*” (Romans 6:4). Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. It is in that understanding that we are enabled to take up our cross and follow Him through the struggles of this life to the glorious deliverance of eternal life.

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 ✘

OPENING HYMN “‘Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake” (LSB 688 vs. 1-3)

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24; 113:3; Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5*

Pastor: This is the day which the Lord has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Pastor: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

People: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

Pastor: Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

People: let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Pastor: Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

People: He was bruised for our iniquities.

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

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.

Sit

HYMN “‘Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake” (LSB 688 vs. 4-5)

✘ WORD ✘

FIRST READING *1 John 1:1-10* (*Walking in the light*)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” (LSB 563 vs. 1-4)

Stand

SECOND READING *John 19:1-16a*
(Jesus before Pilate)

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." 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 out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was 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 to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY *1 John 2:1; Psalm 32:1*

Pastor: We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

People: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Pastor: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

People: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

CATECHISM 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.

CATECHISM Ten Commandments

People: You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox
or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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.

Sit

SERMON HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (*LSB* 411 vs. 1-3)

SERMON "Whom Do We Follow" (*John 19:1-16a*)

Guest Pastor: Pastor Jim Klug

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

PRAYER *LSB, pp. 265-66*

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O Lord God, heavenly Father, by the blessed light of Your divine Word You have led us to the knowledge of Your Son. Grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may ever walk in the light of Your truth and, rejoicing with sure confidence in Christ, our Savior, be brought unto everlasting salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People:Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

People:I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" (LSB 685 vs. 1-4)

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People:Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People:Amen.

Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



*We thank Pastor Jim Klug for filling in for
Pastor Taggatz while he away at his Father-in-Law's Funeral.*

*We thank Mrs. DeVries for playing the organ today while our organist Lisa Hengst
is away.*

*May God continue to richly bless
Pastor Klug and Mrs. DeVries and their ministries to God's people!*

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.

Elder
Reader
Communion Set-up
Linens
Acolyte
Ushers

Livestream

Lenten Midweek 4
Thursday 3-7-24
Mark Olen
Connie Roettgen
No Communion
Gail Nowakowski
Elder
Marlene Voss
Lance Kopperud
Jennifer Olen



Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

**Ash Wednesday February 14th through
Easter Sunday March 31st, 2024**

“St. John Passion”

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, *“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:3–4). Baptism involves death, burial, and resurrection. During Lent, we discover that Jesus is not the only one who suffers, dies, and rises again. Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. We do so through the eyes of the Holy Evangelist, Saint John, as we hear, in John 18–19, of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest, Jesus facing Annas and Caiaphas, Jesus before Pilate, Jesus delivered, Jesus crucified, and Jesus’ death and burial. Look for this Lenten season to provide a deeper understanding of your Baptism into the passion and death of Christ, with the result as Paul describes it: we are *“always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies”* (2 Corinthians 4:10).

1. March 7th, 2024 6:30pm (no communion)
Lenten Midweek 4:
"Whom Do We Follow" John 19:1-16a
2. March 14th, 2024 6:30pm (no communion)
Lenten Midweek 5:
"Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross," John 19:16b-27
3. March 21st, 2024 6:30pm (no communion)
Lenten Midweek 6: *"Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation,"*
John 19:28-42
4. March 28th, 2024 6:30pm (with communion)
"Hey, It's Not about Me!"
Luke 14.12-14, Maundy Thursday
5. March 29th, 2024 (no communion) Good Friday
"Our Lord Did This for You!"
Psalm 22, 12pm-Noon Day Service
6. March 29th, 2024 (no communion)
"Real Life after Good Friday"
Mark 15.33-34, 6:30pm Tenebrae Service (no communion)
7. March 31st, 2024 (no communion)
"Larger than the Stone"
Mark 16.1-8, 6am Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
8. March 31st, 2024 (with communion)
"A Startling New Reality!"
Mark 16:1-8 8:30am & 10am Easter Sunday Festival Service

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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ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
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