

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Lenten Midweek Service

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 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: Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross”***

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. Today, we focus on three scenes of the cross that strengthen our faith in Christ's kindness for us. The cross is our King's throne where His love takes away our sin and makes us the family of God.

### **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** “What Wondrous Love Is This” (*LSB* 543 vs. 1-4)

*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*

**GRACE CHOIR** “I Sing Peace”

## ✠ WORD ✠

### **FIRST READING** *Philippians 2:1-11* *(Christ's example of humility)*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN** "Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious" (LSB 495 vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

### **SECOND READING** *John 19:16b-27* *(The crucifixion)*

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, 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 to his own home.

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** "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" (Sts. 7-9: *LSB* 447)

**SERMON** "Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross" (John 19:16b-27)

**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](http://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 Jesus, our King, by Holy Baptism into Your death we have been adopted as sons and daughters of God by grace. In Your kingly love You faithfully kept the ancient promise of the salvation of the whole world once again setting even the solitary in families. Fill us with wisdom and patience that we may live together in faith and love; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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** "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow" (*LSB* 428 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!





## 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.

**Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

<u>Elder</u>	Lance Kopperud
<u>Reader</u>	Suzie Mirenda
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	*No Communion*
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>	Elder
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss   Lance Kopperud
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen



## **Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church**

**Ash Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> – Easter  
Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (no communion) Lenten Midweek 5:  
“Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross,” John 19:16b–27

2. March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (no communion) Lenten Midweek 6:  
“Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation,” John 19:28–42

3. March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (with communion)  
“Hey, It’s Not about Me!” Luke 14.12–14, Maundy Thursday

4. March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (no communion) Good Friday  
“Our Lord Did This for You!” Psalm 22, 12pm-Noon Day Service

5. March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (no communion)  
“Real Life after Good Friday” Mark 15.33–34,  
6:30pm Tenebrae Service (no communion)

6. March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (no communion)  
“Larger than the Stone” Mark 16.1-8,  
6am Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

7. March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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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Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
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