

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Lenten Midweek 2

March 13th, 2025

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



Image: "Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander! Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive."
(LSB 609:1)

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—"Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis—The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil"

Who is the greatest conqueror ever to have walked on earth? Using the criterion of how much territory a conqueror ruled over, the Mongol warrior Genghis Khan could be considered the greatest conqueror in history. At the peak of his power in the thirteenth century AD, his rule extended over 4,860,000 square miles. Coming in at the second spot was the Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great. The borders of his empire in the fourth century BC included much of Europe and North Africa and parts of the Middle East and Asia, which totaled some 2,180,000 square miles. History reveals that those massive empires did not survive long past the deaths of these warrior leaders. In our worship, we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the "Conqueror renowned" (*LSB* 554:1) who "triumphed over cross and grave" (*LSB* 551:4). His coming to earth to bring about a matchless victory for us over evil and all that oppresses us is eternal and limitless!

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 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (LSB 437 vs. 1-5)

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PSALM *Psalm 8*

Pastor: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens.

People: Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

Pastor: When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

People: what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?

Pastor: Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

People: You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

Pastor: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

People: the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! 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.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious Father, for the joy set before Him, Your Son, Jesus, endured the suffering of the cross. In our suffering, O Lord, strengthen our faith that we may know Your companionship in our darkest hours; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN INTRODUCTION

Pastor: Although the deep and grand texts of many of the hymns of the Lenten season have been used in the church for centuries, there are also new texts in other sections of the hymnal that highlight certain features of the Passion of our Lord in this holy season. One of those hymn texts is “The Tree of Life,” written in the 1990s by Pastor Stephen Starke. It contrasts the tree in the Garden of Eden—having fruit eaten in disobedience to God’s command by Eve and Adam—with the tree of the cross of Calvary, where Jesus overcame the power of Satan by His sacrificial death to pay the price of the sins of mankind. Both trees have power, and each has beauty as well. Both are central to the message of the Gospel. One can expand their Lenten devotional life by meditating on hymn texts. “The tree of life with every good” is the type of text that invites prayerful reflection as it musically expresses the words of the Proper Preface for Holy Week that proclaim Jesus’ great victory over Satan: “that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome.”

HYMN “The Tree of Life” (LSB 561 vs. 1-4)

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *Genesis 3:14-15*
(The consequences of the first sin)

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, when we, by our sin, had fallen away from You, You graciously came down to us. You became man to save humanity. You lived among us in lowliness that we may live with You in glory. You endured Satan’s attacks for us that You could crush the serpent’s head for us. By Your humble incarnation, Your life of purity and selfless service, and Your sacrificial death, You have redeemed us. Therefore, God our Father has highly exalted You and put everything under Your feet, and we humbly bow before You, for You are our Lord, and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SECOND READING *Hebrews 2:11-15*
(The grace of God has appeared.)

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 10:17*

People: Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 12:20-33*

(Jesus tells of the death by which He will die.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

PASSION READING *John 18:1-14*

(Jesus is betrayed and arrested.)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (LSB 656 vs. 1-4)

SERMON “The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil” (Genesis 3:14-15)

OFFERTORY HYMN “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (LSB 422 vs. 1)

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

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Pastor: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: Let our cry come to You.

Pastor: Almighty God, in the fullness of time, You sent the promised offspring, Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us.

People: By His redeeming death, He has crushed the serpent’s head for us.

Pastor: Saved from sin, death, and the devil by His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death,

People: help us to find healing in His wounds

Pastor: and grant us eyes of faith

People: to see that His cross is, for us, the tree of life.

Pastor: Throughout these forty days, O Lord, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus

People: and help us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Pastor: until the day when we and all the faithful rest and rejoice with You in paradise

People: and experience the fullness of Your peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Pastor: Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.

People: Amen.

Sit

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

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.

	<u>Thursday 3/13 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 3/16 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/16 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Brandon Dachel	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Erica Vitek	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	No Communion	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>		Ava Hobart	McKenzie Isenhart
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle Jim Robinson		Eric Kamprath Lisa Kamprath Elizabeth Murphy
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	Glenn Dotson	

Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday March 5th – Easter Sunday April 20th, 2025

“Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis”



Join us for this exciting series as we meditate upon the Gospel, as it's so richly proclaimed to us from the Book of Genesis. Please note: **ASH WEDNESDAY** will be on Wednesday March 5th with Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m. There will be no Thursday evening service that week. The Lenten Services following Ash Wednesday will be on Thursday nights at 6:30pm without communion.

1. **March 13th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Lenten Midweek 2: The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil, Genesis 3:14–15
2. **March 20th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Lenten Midweek 3: The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning, Genesis 6
3. **March 27th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Lenten Midweek 4: The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Himself in Our Place, Genesis 22:1–18
4. **April 3rd, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Lenten Midweek 5: The Good News of a Savior Who Unites Heaven and Earth, Genesis 28:10–22
5. **April 10th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Lenten Midweek 6: The Good News of a Savior Who Brings Good from Evil, Genesis 50:15–21
6. **April 17th, 2025, 6:30pm (with communion)**
Maundy Thursday: “He’s Got Us Covered,” Psalm 32:1–5
7. **April 18th, 2025, 12pm (no communion)**
Good Friday Noon Day Service: “A Time to Speak,” John 19:17–30
8. **April 18th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Good Friday Tenebrae Service: “He Died!” Genesis 5
9. **April 20th, 2025, 6am (no communion)**
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: “Three Days!” John 20:1–18
10. **April 20th, 2025, 8:30am & 10am (with communion)**
Easter Sunday Festival Service: “Easter Guarantees...” Psalm 16

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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