

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## Lenten Midweek 5

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 Unites Heaven and Earth"***

Some of the tools and implements that make our lives easier do not have very lengthy histories. Although ladders of rope, wood, and stone have been around for thousands of years, the trusty stepladder we use in so many ways was not invented until 1862, when John Basely of Dayton, Ohio, constructed a hinged ladder so it could be put away easily after use. Ladders have aided humans for centuries. They assist a person to reach high places safely. The ladder in Jacob's dream did that and more—it reached down to him on earth with an affirmation of God's promises. As we worship, God reaches to us with His promises of redemption, forgiveness, and love. What a great vision that is for us to share!

### **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** “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed” (*LSB* 560 vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

### **INVOCATION**

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

**People:** Amen.

### **PSALM** *Psalms 121*

**Pastor:** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

**People:** My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

**Pastor:** He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

**People:** Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

**Pastor:** The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

**People:** The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

**Pastor:** The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

**People:** The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. 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. Eternal God, You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son into death for our sin. Take our lives, Lord, and use them to lift up Your Son so that all will be drawn to Him and find eternal life; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

*Sit*

### **HYMN INTRODUCTION**

**Pastor:** Singing hymns together as the people of God is an activity we may take for granted. That joyful exercise has not always been part of the worship life of the church. In centuries

past, the singing of sacred music in churches was limited to the clergy, monks, nuns, and choristers singing the liturgy. During the Middle Ages, some musical reformers in the church brought hymn singing to laypeople through the singing of laudes, which were sacred songs sung in religious processions and at devotional assemblies. “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” is one of those early hymns, dating back to Italy in the fifteenth century. It calls all of God’s people to repentance and a deeper devotion to Jesus, our Savior, as we view His cross with faith-filled eyes. The text of this hymn was written by Girolamo Savonarola, one of the most notable churchmen of the Middle Ages. Distressed by the secular excesses of the city of Florence, Italy, he preached repentance and reform and, for a while, became ruler of the great medieval city. With his spirited preaching and his insistence on destroying whatever he considered detrimental to the society of Florence in what were called “bonfires of the vanities,” he gained strong supporters and made fierce enemies. After public opinion turned against him, he was charged with heresy and executed. Savonarola has been considered by many in the centuries after his death to be one of the first martyrs of the Reformation. Translated into English in the nineteenth century by noblewoman Lady Jane Wilde, the hymn has become a Lenten favorite.

**HYMN** “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” (LSB 423 vs. 1-3)

## **✠ WORD ✠**

**FIRST READING** *Genesis 28:10-22*

*(Jacob’s dream of a ladder between earth and heaven.)*

Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone,

which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **PRAYER RESPONSE**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, You never slumber nor sleep and Your eyes are always open to our needs. On our journey through this life to the life of the world to come, graciously guide us and guard us through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and in Him You will keep our going out and our coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

**People: Amen.**

### **SECOND READING** *Ephesians 2:11-22* *(We are one in Christ.)*

Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### **VERSE** *Philippians 2:8*

**People: He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

### **HOLY GOSPEL** *John 1:43-51* *(Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael.)*

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

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**PASSION READING** *John 18:33-40*  
*(Pilate interviews Jesus.)*

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

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.

*Sit*

**SERMON HYMN** “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” (LSB 611 vs. 1-4)

**SERMON** “The Good News of a Savior Who Unites Heaven and Earth” (Genesis 28:10-22)

**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](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*

### **RESPONSIVE LITANY**

**Pastor:** Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**People:** Let our cry come to You.

Pastor: Lord God, in our journey through this life, help us to build our hopes not on what we have done for You

**People:but on what You have done for us,**

Pastor: and help us to find peace not by searching within ourselves

**People:but by looking to Christ and His cross;**

Pastor: for our hearts are restless

**People:until they find their rest in You.**

Pastor: Gracious God, be with all who are lost and searching,

**People:and draw their hearts to Christ,**

Pastor: that they may know Him as the way, and the truth, and the life,

**People:and find in Him a peace that surpasses all understanding;**

Pastor: for He is the stairway to heaven,

**People:and through Him the door to paradise is open.**

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** “You Are the Way; through You Alone”

(LSB 526 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 4/3 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 4/6 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 4/6 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Mike Huber	Mark Olen	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Erica Vitek	Jen Lau
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	No Communion	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>		Alyssa Norton	
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss	Bob Buzzell	Mike Huber
	Lance Kopperud	Lynn Buzzell	Martin Taggatz
			Edward Taggatz
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	Glenn Dotson	

## Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church Ash Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. **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*
2. **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*
3. **April 17th, 2025, 6:30pm (with communion)**  
*Maundy Thursday: “He’s Got Us Covered,” Psalm 32:1–5*
4. **April 18th, 2025, 12pm (no communion)**  
*Good Friday Noon Day Service: “A Time to Speak,” John 19:17–30*
5. **April 18th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**  
*Good Friday Tenebrae Service: “He Died!” Genesis 5*
6. **April 20th, 2025, 6am (no communion)**  
*Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: “Three Days!” John 20:1–18*
7. **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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Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
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