

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## Lenten Midweek 2

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*"By His Grace you are saved through faith"*

**Ephesians 2:8**



Image: "Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob." (*Exodus 2:23-24*)

# 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—“Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us”***

We pray, but at times God seems distant. Today we hear the Good News that God has come down to us as Jesus, who calls Himself “*I AM*,” the name Moses was to use. Jesus is God, in whom all of God dwells bodily, Paul writes. In His Son, our heavenly Father made lavish promises: to Abraham, “*In you shall all the nations be blessed*” (Galatians 3:8), and to us, who belong to Christ, “*If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise*” (Galatians 3:29). God has revealed Himself in our Savior, Jesus, by His wondrous love.

### **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** *Colossians 2:6; Exodus 3:8; John 8:51; Colossians 2:9, adapt.; Psalm 124:8*

**Pastor:** As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

**People:** I have come down to deliver them.

**Pastor:** If anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.

**People:** In [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

**Pastor:** Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**People:** who made heaven and earth.

**PSALM** *Psalm 124*

**Pastor:** If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say—

**People:** if it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us,

**Pastor:** then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

**People:** then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.

**Pastor:** Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth!

**People:** We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

**Pastor:** Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**People:** who made heaven and earth.

*Sit*

### ✘ WORD ✘

**FIRST READING** *Exodus 3:1-15*

*(God appears to Moses in a bush which does not burn up.)*

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And

the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** *Colossians 2:6-10*  
*(The complete deity dwells in Christ.)*

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THIRD READING** *John 8:48-59*  
*(Jesus uses the "I AM" name about Himself.)*

The Jews answered [Jesus], "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**RESPONSORY** *John 6:35; 8:12; 10:11, 7; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1; Hebrews 8:12*

Pastor: I am the bread of life and the light of the world.

**People: I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.**

Pastor: I am the good shepherd and the door of the sheep.

**People: I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.**

Pastor: I am the resurrection and the life. I am the way, and the truth, and the life. I am the true vine.

**People: I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.**

**PASSION READING** *Mark 14:32-45*

***(Jesus Prays in Gethsemane & Betrayal & Arrest of Jesus)***

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough;

the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.” And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

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** “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (*LSB* 437 vs. 1-4)

**SERMON** “The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us” (Exodus 3:1-15)

**OFFERTORY HYMN** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (Sts. 1, 4: *LSB* 426)

**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*

## **PRAYERS**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.

**People:** Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.

**Pastor:** Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.

**People:** Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.

**Pastor:** Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.

**People:** Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.

**People:** Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.

**Pastor:** Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.

**People:** Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.

**Pastor:** Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.

**People:** Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.

**Pastor:** O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land.

**People:** Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Christ, our Lord.

**Pastor:** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

**People:** give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;

**Pastor:** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13*

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

**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*

**BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN** "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" (*LSB* 435 vs. 1-4)

**Announcements**

**P:** Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

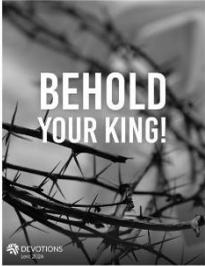
**C:** Thanks be to God!



## 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>Elders</u>	<u>Thursday 2/26 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 3/1 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/1 10:30am</u>
<u>Readers</u>	Lance Kopperrud	Mark Olen	Eric Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Edward Taggatz	Glenn Dotson	Beth Jackson
<u>Linens</u>	No Communion	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Acolyte</u>	Char Klipfel	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Ava Hobart	McKenzie Isenhart
	Connie Roettgen	Steven Pawlak	Eric Kamprath
		Benjamin Tindall	Lisa Kamprath
			Elizabeth Murphy
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	Glenn Dotson	



### **2026 Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries** ***Behold Your King!***

In love, God sent His Son to redeem the world. In hatred, He was rejected. In *Behold Your King!*, we see the Savior stripped of His dignity, led away, and crucified on our behalf. No one could imagine this Man, this condemned and forsaken Man, was God in the flesh sent to liberate us from our sin by His death and resurrection. That the Son of God joined us in our frail state of humanity is testament to God's overwhelming love and concern for the world.

And not only this, Jesus endured scorn and derision from His creation, His earthly subjects. And yet, as King, as Lord of all, He did the unthinkable: He laid down His life for the sins of the world. We are offering these devotions at our Church in both a physical booklet form and we will be emailing them out to our members. This devotional will include our Lenten Worship Schedule for Grace with contact information for our Church. To view the devotions online go to: <https://www.lhm.org/lent/> ***Consider using this devotion not only for your own personal and family devotions during the Lenten season, but also to share with your neighbor, family member, friend, or co-worker so that they too can share in the comforting Gospel of our Lord's passion and death for the forgiveness of our sins.***

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

**Ash Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



## **“Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus”**

**Lenten Midweek 2 February 26, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)**

*The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us, Exodus 3:1–15*

**Lenten Midweek 3 March 5, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)**

*The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer, Exodus 4:1–20*

**Lenten Midweek 4 March 12, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)**

*The Good News of a God Who Passes Over Us in Mercy, Exodus 12:1–14*

**Lenten Midweek 5 March 19, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)**

*The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us, Exodus 14:5–31*

**Lenten Midweek 6 March 26, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)**

*The Good News of a God Who Sustains Us on Our Journey, Exodus 16:1–18, 35*

**Maundy Thursday April 2, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (with Communion)**

*New Passover, Luke 22:7–20*

**Good Friday (Noon Service) April 3, 2026 – 12:00 p.m. (no Communion)**

*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted by God, Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9; John 19*

**Good Friday (Tenebrae/Evening Service) April 3, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)**

*New Death, John 19:17–30*

**Easter Sunrise Service April 5, 2026 – 6:00 a.m. (no Communion)**

*Christ Is Risen! So What?, 1 Corinthians 15:19–26*

**Easter Festival Services April 5, 2026 – 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. (with Communion)**

*“Middle C” and the Rest of the Story, Colossians 3:1–4*

## 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.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
Principal	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	414-762-3655
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
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262

Pastor		<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Church Office	Heidi, Church Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

Church & ECC  
3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office  
Mailing Address  
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154



