

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## Lenten Midweek 5

March 19<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 Makes a Way for Us”***

When the Israelites seemed trapped, the way out for them was through the middle of the sea. For Christians today, it has been through the waters of Baptism. It is Jesus who is the way, and the truth, and the life. God's Old Testament people survived to continue their escape in the desert. But we follow Christ, in our daily walk, through a resurrection like His, and on to the place He has readied for us. This is all good news for us from Exodus.

### **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** “All Who Believe and Are Baptized” (LSB 601 vs. 1-2)

*Stand*

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 143:1, 5, 10*

**Pastor:** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

**People:** In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!

**Pastor:** I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done;

**People:** I ponder the work of Your hands.

**Pastor:** Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God!

**People:** Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

**PSALM** *Psalm 121*

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

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

*Left side:* He will not let your foot be moved;

*Right side:* He who keeps you will not slumber.

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

*Left side:* The LORD is your keeper;

*Right side:* the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

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

*Right side:* 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.

*Sit*

### ✘ WORD ✘

**FIRST READING** *Exodus 4:1-31*

*(The Lord protects His people at the sea.)*

**Exodus 4:1-3**

**Moses Given Powerful Signs**

Then Moses answered [the LORD], “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’” The Lord said to him, “What is that

in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. But the Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand and catch it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—“that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” Again, the Lord said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.” But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.” Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs.”

Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, “Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.” And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead.” So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

And the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.’”

At a lodging place on the way the Lord met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son’s foreskin and touched Moses’ feet with it and said, “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!” So he let him alone. It was then that she said, “A bridegroom of blood,” because of the circumcision.

The Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** *Romans 6:3-5*

*(We shall be raised as Christ was.)*

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.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THIRD READING** *John 14:1-6*

*(Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life.)*

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**RESPONSORY** *1 Corinthians 10:1-4*

Lector: Our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea.

**People: The Rock was Christ.**

Lector: All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

**People: The Rock was Christ.**

Lector: All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.

**People: The Rock was Christ.**

**PASSION READING** *Mark 15:12-24*

*(Jesus Is Mocked & The Crucifixion)*

And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” And Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

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** “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” (LSB 611 vs. 1-5)

**SERMON** “The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us” (Exodus 14:5-31)

**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: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul.

**People:** Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" (*LSB* 918 vs. 1-3)

**Announcements**

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

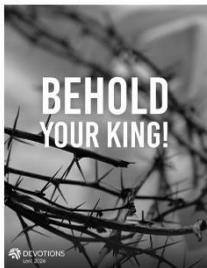
C: Thanks be to God!



## 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>Wednesday 3/19 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 3/22 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/2 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Adam Voss	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Edward Taggatz	Glenn Dotson	Pastor Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	No Communion	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>			
<u>Ushers</u>	Lance Kopperud Marlene Voss	Steven Pawlak Benjamin Tindall	Eric Kamprath 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 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.

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Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
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