# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate*
*Teach*
*Share*
*God's Grace*

## The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22nd, 2026

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

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

**Image**: "Then He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." (*Ezekiel 37:4-6)*

# 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 *"Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life"*

While Lent focuses on Christ's suffering and upcoming death, these Readings turn to the resurrection and life. Ezekiel takes us to the valley of the dry bones, and we hear the promise "*you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves*" (Ezekiel 37:13). Romans 8 finishes with the promise "*He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you*" (v. 11). John 11 tells of Lazarus coming out of the tomb after four days, but the climax comes earlier when Jesus declares He is the resurrection and life. Psalm 130 starts with a cry from the depths to God that asks the Lord to be attentive to our pleas, but it ends with the hope we have in the Lord. Every Sunday, including those in Lent, is a celebration of Christ's resurrection.

## 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:** *Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 203*

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Opening Hymn 819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good (vs. 1-4)**

*Stand*

**Confession and Absolution** *LSB 203*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

**Introit** *(Psalm 116:1–4, 8; antiphon: v. 15, read responsively)*

Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
**is the death | of his saints.**
I love the LORD, because | he has heard*
**my voice and my pleas for | mercy.**

Because he inclined his | ear to me,*
**therefore I will call on him as long | as I live.**
The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid | hold on me;*
**I suffered distress and | anguish.**
Then I called on the name | of the LORD:*
**"O LORD, I pray, deliv- | er my soul!"**
For you have delivered my | soul from death,*
**my eyes from tears, my feet from | stumbling.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son***
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**
**as it was in the be- | ginning,***
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
**is the death | of his saints.**

**Kyrie** *LSB 204*

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

***During Lent the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted…***

## Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading** *Ezekiel 37:1–14*

***(Ezekiel prophesies over the bones, and the Lord brings them to life.)***

[1]The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and
set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. [2]And he led me around among
them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were
very dry. [3]And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord
GOD, you know." [4]Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry
bones, hear the word of the LORD. [5]Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause
breath to enter you, and you shall live. [6]And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh
to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you
shall know that I am the LORD."

[7]So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and
behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. [8]And I looked, and behold,
there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But
there was no breath in them. [9]Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of
man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,
and breathe on these slain, that they may live." [10]So I prophesied as he commanded me, and
the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great
army.

[11]Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold,
they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' [12]Therefore
prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise
you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. [13]And you shall
know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my
people. [14]And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your
own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares
the LORD."

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual** *(Hebrews 12:2, read responsively)*

[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, despis- | ing the shame,*
**and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.**

**Epistle Lesson** *Romans 8:1–11*

***(The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to you.)***

[1]There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2]For the law
of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. [3]For God
has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the
likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, [4]in order that the righteous

requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. [5]For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. [6]To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. [7]For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. [8]Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

[9]You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. [10]But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. [11]If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Verse for the Fifth Sunday in Lent**—*"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." (Verse John 11:25)*

**Holy Gospel** *John 11:17-27, 38-53*

***(Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.)***

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[17]When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. [18]Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, [19]and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. [20]So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. [21]Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [22]But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." [23]Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." [24]Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." [25]Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26]and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" [27]She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." . . .

[38]Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. [39]Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." [40]Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" [41]So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. [42]I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing

around, that they may believe that you sent me." [43]When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." [44]The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

[45]Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, [46]but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. [47]So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. [48]If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." [49]But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. [50]Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." [51]He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, [52]and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. [53]So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed** *LSB 206*

C **I believe in one God,**
**the Father Almighty,**
**maker of heaven and earth**
**and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,**
**the only-begotten Son of God,**
**begotten of His Father before all worlds,**
**God of God, Light of Light,**
**very God of very God,**
**begotten, not made,**
**being of one substance with the Father,**
**by whom all things were made;**
**who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**
**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary**
**and was made man;**
**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**
**He suffered and was buried.**
**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures**
**and ascended into heaven**
**and sits at the right hand of the Father.**
**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,**
**whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**
**the Lord and giver of life,**
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**
**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**
**who spoke by the prophets.**
**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**
**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**
**and I look for the resurrection of the dead**
**and the life** T **of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Children's Message "Not Guilty! (Romans 8:1-11)** (The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. Please note—parents of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message)

**Sermon Hymn 430 My Song Is Love Unknown (vs. 1-4, 7)**

**Sermon "In Jesus, There Is No Condemnation" (Rom 8:1-11)**

**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*

**Prayer of the Church** *(After each petition the Pastor will say, "Lord in Your mercy,"* and the congregation responds saying, *"Hear our prayer.")*

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**Preface** *LSB 208*

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus** *LSB 208*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**
**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.**
**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;**
**Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *LSB 209*

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**Lord's Prayer** *LSB 209*

C **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.**

**The Words of Our Lord** *LSB 209*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini** *LSB 209*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

**Agnus Dei** *LSB 210*

C **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**
**You take the sin of the world away;**
**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**
**Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**
**You take the sin of the world away;**
**Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,**
**And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*Sit*

**Distribution**

**We celebrate the Lord's Supper**

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28).* Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins? (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)*

2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)*
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?) (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)*
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit? (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)*

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

***COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.***

**Distribution Hymns**

**-420 Christ, the Life of All the Living**

**-686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis** *LSB 211*

C **1 O Lord, now let Your servant**
**Depart in heav'nly peace,**
**For I have seen the glory**
**Of Your redeeming grace:**
**A light to lead the Gentiles**
**Unto Your holy hill,**
**The glory of Your people,**
**Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,**
**All glory to the Son,**
**All glory to the Spirit,**
**Forever Three in One;**
**For as in the beginning,**
**Is now, shall ever be,**
**God's triune name resounding**
**Through all eternity.**

**Post-Communion Collect** *LSB 212*

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, for showing us Your steadfast love and plentiful redemption in this saving gift. Set our mind on the things of the Spirit, that we may be strengthened to believe in the One who is the resurrection and the life, and show steadfast love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Benedicamus** *LSB 212*

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction** *LSB 212*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Closing Hymn 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (vs. 1-4)**

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!
**People: Thanks be to God!**

✠ ✠ ✠

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

***For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.*** **Myles King** (blood disorder); **Michael Helzer** (cancer); **Michael Parker** (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; **Jim & Kari** (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; **Greg Voss** (healing & strength); **Sindy Schmidt** (healing & patience); **Gary Forsythe** (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; **Brittany** (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; **Greg** (cancer) brother in law of Mike & Pat Toman; **Judy** (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; **Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew** (Alzheimer's); **Jenny Rice** (cancer); **Scott** (kidney failure) brother of Pat Toman; **Jennifer** (diagnosed with MS); **Steve Benzie** (stomach pain, hernia); **Cheryl** (cancer) friend of Dennis Iseli; **Carol Long** (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier; **Mariya** (cancer); **Terri** (healing and strength) friend of Joy Lussier; **Cris Evers** (healing & strength); **Laura** (Lou Gehrig's Disease) friend of Jim & Janine Pieper; **Don Adams** (healing & strength) relative of Pauline Parker; **Martha Rowley** (healing & strength) Grandma of Mary Rowley; **Grace Miskimen** (cancer) sister of Beth Jackson; **Dale** (pancreatic cancer) brother of Joy Lussier; **Evan Kopperud** (healing & strength); **Tina Drapp** (breast cancer); **Pete** (healing & strength) friend of Marlene & Greg Voss; **Debbie Parker** (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's daughter in law; **Scott Brenton** (on dialysis) Linda Maldonado's fiancé; **Gary** (leukemia) friend of Marlene Voss; **Jan Barrett** (healing & strength); **Karen** (surgery); **Pam** (melanoma, healing & strength) relative of Carol Thurber; **Paul & Karen** (healing & strength) Jim & Janine Pieper's relatives; **Carol LaBanco** (pancreatic cancer) friend of Pauline Parker's family; **Marilyn Pugh** (heart condition) friend of Carol Loveall; **Shirley Stachowiak** (cancer) niece of Dennis Iseli; **Lori Jablonski** (cancer); **Joy Lussier** (cancer, recovery from surgery); **Christopher Barnard** (healing & strength following surgery); **Dan Taggatz** (heart surgery) Pastor Taggatz's Uncle; **Student of Mary Rowley** (diagnosed with blood cancer); **Doc Medek** (healing & strength); **John Falcon** (cancer) Carol Loveall's Nephew; **Chris** (leukemia) friend of Joanne Jaeger; **Jackie Lehman** (healing & strength); **Jennie Schwister** (broken hip) Rick Week's Sister; **Morgan Christianson** (surgery) Fiance of Anthony Parker; **Alan & Sandy Jacobson** (declining health) Parents of Jill Kent.

***For our Homebound Members at Grace:*** Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, Art Steinborn, Doc Medek, Joanne Morgan, Rose Adams, and Jim Sauer.

***All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues;*** Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: Paulinemom@aol.com.

**If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship**:

Church Office 414-762-8990

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Requests on prayer line: | 9am–3 pm | Carol Thurber | 414-762-9615 |
| | 3pm-9 pm | Pauline Parker | 414-764-5574 |

## 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 3/19 6:30pm | Sunday 3/22 8:00am | Sunday 3/22 10:30am |
|---|---|---|---|
| Elders | Lance Kopperud | Adam Voss | Mike Huber |
| Readers | Edward Taggatz | Glenn Dotson | Pastor Taggatz |
| Communion Set-up | No Communion | Jeanne Meyer | Jeanne Meyer |
| Linens | Gail Nowakowski | Gail Nowakowski | Gail Nowakowski |
| Acolyte | | | |
| Ushers | Lance Kopperud | Steven Pawlak | Eric Kamprath |
| | Marlene Voss | Benjamin Tindall | Lisa Kamprath |
| | | | Elizabeth Murphy |
| Livestream | Jennifer Olen | Glenn Dotson | |

## Grace Youth Group Easter Breakfast!!!

Our Youth Group will be hosting their Potluck Easter Breakfast in the Church Narthex on Easter Sunday, April 5th from 7:00am-8:30am & 9:30am-10am
We are requesting members to RSVP and sign up for a dish to share.

PLEASE SEE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX!

A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Grace Youth Group.

Thank you for your support!!!

# Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 28th at 3pm

**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

This Easter Egg Hunt will be for Preschool through 4th Grade and it will be held at Grace Lutheran School. Our Grace Lutheran Youth Group members and their parents will be helping out with this event. We are asking for donations of already filled plastic Easter Eggs for this Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to drop off your donations you can do so at Church or our Grace Lutheran School/Church Office. We are inviting families from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center to attend this event. Please join us!!! We will need our Junior and Senior High Youth to help us with putting our Easter Eggs for this event an hour before the event takes place.

# Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

March 28th
8:00am-9:30am at Grace School

## Hunger Task Force Annual Fund Drive

The Evangelism Board, along with the Hunger Task Force, is holding their Annual Fund Drive starting on: *Ash Wednesday, February 18th, and running through Palm Sunday, March 29th*. The best way to support the Hunger Task Force is by making a monetary donation. The Hunger Task Force will then purchase food to be distributed to those in need. There are ***envelopes*** on the table at the back of the church for your donations. These can be placed in the offering plate. If you are a school family, you can send in your donation through the school office. ***Please make checks out to:*** *Grace Lutheran Church and write 'Hunger Task Force' in the memo section*. As part of the kickoff for this fundraiser, please bring a: ***jar of peanut butter*** to church. Thank you for helping those in need! Thank you in advance for your generosity! *Grace Evangelism Board.*

## Thrivent Choice Dollars – Deadline March 31st

Thrivent members have an opportunity to support Grace Lutheran Church and School through the Thrivent Choice® program. Eligible members can direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars® to Grace at no cost to them. The deadline to direct Choice Dollars for this year is March 31, so please don't wait. To see if you have Choice Dollars available or to continue directing them to Grace, call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say, *"Thrivent Choice."*

**For more information about the Thrivent Choice program, please visit:**
**https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html**

**If you have questions or would like assistance locally, you may contact Gena in Ryan VanDeLoo's Thrivent office at (414) 856-9900.**
Thank you for helping support the ministry of Grace through Thrivent Choice Dollars!

## Choir at Grace!

**Choir practice is on Thursday evenings following our 6:30pm worship service**. The psalmist reminds us to *"make a joyful noise to the Lord"* (Psalm 100:1), and Martin Luther once said, *"He who sings prays twice."* What a wonderful way to lift our voices in praise together! If you would like more information, please contact **Kathy Kolb at 414-744-7781**. Please join us—we would love to have you!

## Join the Grace Oak Creek VBS Committee!

Plans are underway for **Vacation Bible School in June 2026**, and we're forming a committee to help with planning and preparation. Volunteers are needed for areas such as **decorations, supplies, recruitment, fundraising, and more**.

If you're interested in serving, please email:

**apankow@graceoakcreek.org**

# Grief Share Seminar and Support Group at Grace

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently? On **Monday, February 9th**, Grace Lutheran will be starting a **Grief Share Seminar and Support Group** to help those walking through the difficult journey of grief. This group is designed to offer comfort, understanding, and encouragement through God's Word and the fellowship of His Church. Many who have attended Grief Share have found that it helps them begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help.

**When:** Mondays, February 9th – May 18th
**Time:** 6:30–8:00pm
**Where:** Grace Lutheran School Library, 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Oak Creek, WI
**Cost:** $20.00.

Our Grief Share group will be led by **Lori Kachelmeier** and **Jeanne Meyer**, who will walk alongside participants as they learn from nationally recognized experts on grief recovery. Topics include: *"Is This Normal?" "The Challenges of Grief," "Grief and Your Relationships," "Why?"* and *"Guilt and Anger."*

**Register online here: *tinyurl.com/57tkyjy8***

**If you have any questions, please contact:**
**Jeanne Meyer** – meyorch@sbcglobal.net
**Lori Kachelmeier** – jlkachel2@gmail.com

Please share this opportunity with anyone you know who may be struggling with the loss of a loved one. May our gracious Lord use this ministry to bring His comfort, peace, and hope to many.

## Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

**Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m.**
We are studying, *"Joy: A Study of Philippians" By Deb Burma.*

# Sunday Morning Bible Class

**9:15-10:15am in the School Library**

**Matthew: "*His Kingdom Forever*." (10 sessions)**

Each study in the *God's Word for Today* series provides an in-depth exploration of a book of the Bible. Each session includes:

- background information on the book of the Bible, its author, audience, occasion, and purpose;
- learning experiences that promote exciting and challenging discussions;
- notes for leaders that answer questions, suggest a learning process, and provide additional information;
- discussion starters that help participants apply God's Word to their daily lives.

The apostle Matthew writes his gospel to proclaim to the world that its promised Savior has come. Pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophesies, Matthew proclaims the universality of Jesus' love. Let's take a look at the Gospel of Matthew and learn and grow!

**The Lutheran Hour "Meeting You Where You Are"**
Guest Speaker: Rev. Gregory Manning. Jesus meets you where you are, not where you should have been. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
Listen online at: lutheranhour.org/or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WTMJ | 620 AM | Milwaukee, WI | Sun 6:30 am |
| WGN | 720 AM | Chicago, IL | Sun 6:30am |

"Grief is a road no one chooses, yet in this fallen world, it is a path we must all tread. There are no words that can fully capture the sorrow of losing someone we love—no explanations that can make death seem natural or right. It wasn't meant to be this way. Death is the great intruder, a bitter consequence of sin's curse. And yet, even in the depths of sorrow, the Lord gives us this promise: He is near." *Rev. M.L. Smith, Director of International Missions of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

## *IN THE WORD FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT*

**Catechism**: Ten Commandments—1-3 (Primary Texts) Table of Duties—What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17

**Verse of the week**: Luke 10:2 "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 130 (antiphon vs. 7)

**Hymn of the week**: LSB 420 "Christ, the Life of All the Living" (stanzas 1-3)

**Bible Readings for the Week**:

Sunday— Lent 5: The Raising of Lazarus—John 11:1-45

Monday— Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany—John 12:1-11

Tuesday— Palm Sunday—John 12:12-26

Wednesday— Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet—John 13:1-20

Thursday— The Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38

Friday— A New Commandment Is Given—John 13:21-38

Saturday— Jesus' High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-26 & Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-9a

# Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

## Ash Wednesday February 18th – Easter Sunday April 5th, 2026

### *"Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus"*

Join us for this exciting series as we meditate upon the Gospel, as it's so richly proclaimed to us from the Book of Exodus, as we begin the season of Lent, the forty days we set aside to focus on our Lord's Passion as we lead up to Easter. The Lord calls us to "*Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning," and Joel calls for a "solemn assembly*" (Joel 2:12, 15). It is time to "*to receive the grace of God*" (2 Corinthians 6:1). And it is a time for active dialogue between each of us and our Father in heaven, as Jesus instructs in the Gospel. The readings from Exodus, which shall guide our worship throughout the season of Lent, though, also provide us with Good News. We do not deserve it, but God hears and answers our cries. Be ready to pray; be ready to thank our gracious God.

## *Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Series Overview (2026)*

**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*

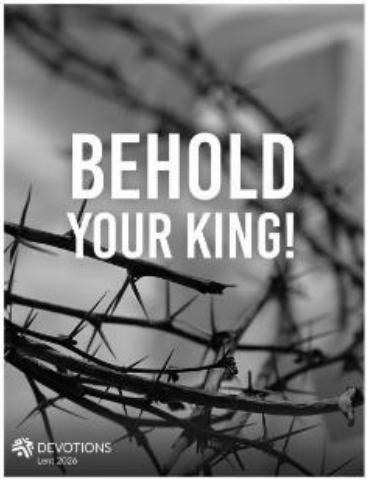
**Maundy Thursday April 2, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (with Communion)**
*New Passover, Luke 22:7–20*

**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*




# 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/

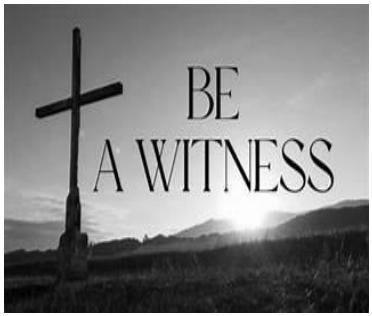
*Consider using this devotion not only for your own personal and family devotions during the Lenten season, but also to share with your neighbor, family member, friend, or co- worker so that they too can share in the comforting Gospel of our Lord's passion and death for the forgiveness of our sins.*

## Stewardship Minute

Jesus said, *"Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock"* (Matthew 7:24). Jesus tells us that true wisdom is not just hearing His teachings but actively applying them. That Rock is Christ, Who by His blood has given us salvation; by the Holy Spirit we live obedient lives of service, standing on that Rock. Earthquakes, floods, and winds do not move or harm that house; life's problems and temptations will not harm the believer who holds to the Rock, our Lord Jesus Christ. Trusting in God's strength, we respond to God's Word by doing His will. God's will becomes our will.

**OUR PURPOSE IS TO GIVE GOD GLORY, TO POINT PEOPLE TO HIM SO THAT THEY CAN KNOW HIM, TOO.**

"…you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8b).




## *Growing in Grace – March 12th & March 15th*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *General Offering* | *$1415.00* | | |
| *Online Giving* | *$1248.41* | | |
| *Debt Fund* | *$0.00* | | |
| *Missions* | *$0.00* | | |
| *Mortgage Fund* | *$45.00* | | |
| *Portals of Prayer* | *$0.00* | *Total Attendance* | *Total Communed* |
| *Lutheran Schools* | *$0.00* | *Thursday Lent: 29* | *-* |
| *Sunday School* | *$0.00* | *Sunday: 53* | *39* |
| ***Total*** | ***$2708.41*** | | |

**<u>Please note</u>: In order to meet budget each week we need to receive $6,586 in offerings. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We could not do what we do without your prayers, volunteering of your time and talents, and financial support!!**

# *Opportunities at Grace this week!*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | 3/22 | 8:00am | Divine Worship |
| | | 9:15am | Adult Bible Class |
| | | 10:30am | Divine Worship |
| Monday | 3/23 | 6:30pm | Confirmation Class |
| | | 6:30pm | Grief Share |
| Tuesday | 3/24 | 7:00am | Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) |
| Wednesday | 3/25 | 9:30am | Ladies Bible Study |
| Thursday | 3/26 | 6:30pm | Lenten Midweek Worship |
| | | 7:30pm | Choir Practice |
| Friday | 3/27 | ---------- | ---------- |
| Saturday | 3/28 | 8:00am | Rise & Sonshine Bible Study |
| | | 3:00pm | 4K-4th Grade Easter Egg Hunt (At School) |
| Sunday | 3/29 | 8:00am | Divine Worship |
| | | 9:15am | Adult Bible Class |
| | | 10:30am | Divine Worship |

# 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)<br>715-467-1231 (Cell)<br>262-664-4365 (Home)<br>thewordendures.blogspot.com |
| 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 | 414-762-8869 |
| | ECC | 414-856-9262 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pastor | | pastor@graceoakcreek.org |
| Church Office | Heidi, Secretary | church@graceoakcreek.org |
| Principal | | principal@graceoakcreek.org |
| School Office | Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst. | school@graceoakcreek.org |
| ECC Director | | eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org |
| ECC Office | | ecc@graceoakcreek.org |

## Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

## School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5315