



Second Sunday in Lent

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
500 South Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980

March 8, 2020

**“ A Community of Servants Sharing in the
Word and Work of Jesus”**

HOLY COMMUNION

(Based on ELW Setting Three)

Congregational responses are in bold print

*Welcome to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church! There are four key parts to our Worship Service: we **GATHER** before our God to prepare to worship, and bring ourselves and all that we are before God. Then we hear the **WORD** of God; we share the four Bible Readings with at least one billion other Christians around the world each Sunday! And we hear that word proclaimed through the Sermon, confess our faith in the God whose Grace we hear about in the Word, and offer our prayers to God, for the sake of the Church, the World, and each other in our needs and joys. We then share in the **MEAL** of Holy Communion, offering ourselves and then discovering God's love and forgiveness have already been waiting for us as we receive Christ's Body and Blood through the bread and wine. Finally we are **SENT**, the shortest but perhaps most important part of worship, because it is **THEN** that we live out our Faith and what we believe about God's Grace and Love, and how it makes us a blessing in this world as we share it.*

*During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in **bold type**. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to **stand**, please do so as you are able. As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.*

Gathering

Gloria Patri

Congregation and Choir Sing

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "Andante"

Herzog

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Confession and Forgiveness

The congregation stands.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, and desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Gathering Song: *“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”*

Hymn #767, Page 4

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,

di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
 for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
 I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,

With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
 Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
 then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!

so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
 for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
 So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE, Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie



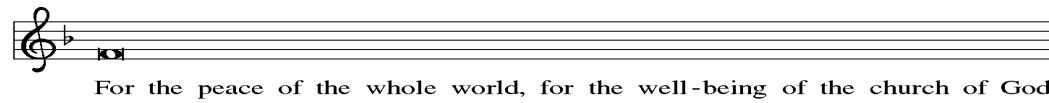
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



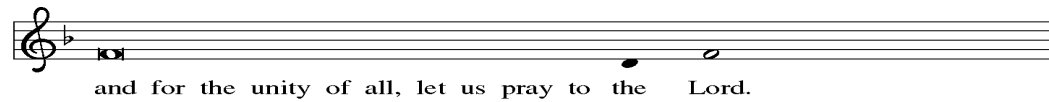
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



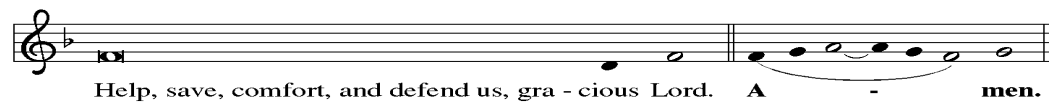
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Word

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

A reading from Genesis:

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

A reading from Romans:

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.


¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

The congregation **stands** to welcome the gospel.



S 142b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Continued

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

Children’s Sermon

Rev. Cynthia Long

Following the Children's Sermon, children ages 3-9 are invited to attend Children's Church, which is held on the same floor as this worship space in the Library, and Chapel. Here the children will learn more about the same Bible readings as were heard in worship, and will be taught songs and about the way we worship. Children's Church will return to worship around the time of the Sharing of the Peace, in order to take part in Holy Communion.

NOTE: The Nursery is available for children age 5 and under as the Worship Service begins. Children under 5 not attending Children's Church will have the Nursery available throughout the Worship Service. (As always, parents may choose to have their children remain with them in worship.) Children 10 and over will join in regular Worship.

Sermon

Rev. Cynthia Long

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The congregation stands.

Hymn of the Day: “God Loved the World”

Hymn #323, Page 10

Apostle’s Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

God Loved the World

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

Prayers of Intercession

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Meal

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

*The congregation is **seated**.*

Offering

(The offering is gathered by the ushers. Please place visitor cards in the offering plate)

Anthem: "Out of the Depths"

Horman

*The congregation **stands***

(The Ushers bring the offering to the Altar, as we sing)

Offertory Response

Create in Me a Clean Heart

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it."

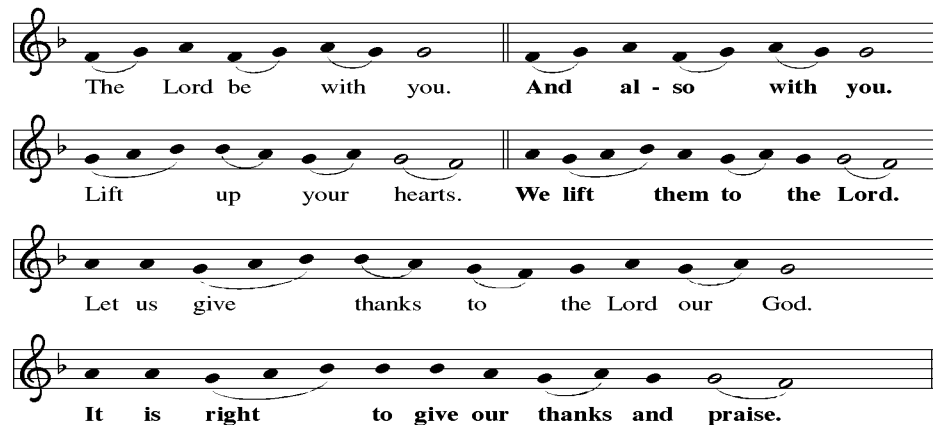
Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert
Arr. © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress
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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

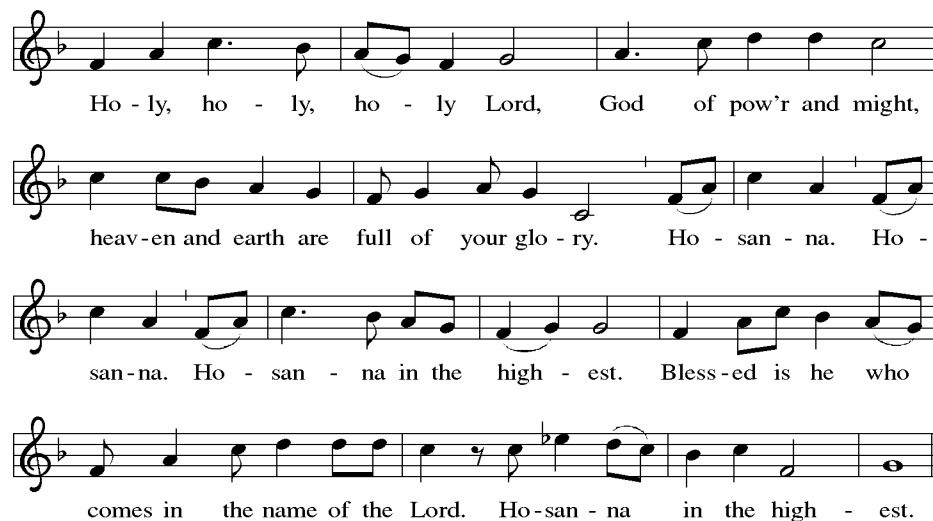
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

God's love is poured out in Christ for you.

Open yourselves to receive it.

Thanks be to God.

*The congregation may be **seated**.*

The Holy Communion

*The congregation may be **seated**.*

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

***Communion Distribution:** One communion team will serve the left side of the nave; another team will serve those on the right. You are invited to come to the altar by the center aisle; take an empty individual glass (or filled grape juice glass) available at the railing, and proceed to the railing, filling in from the center out toward the side aisle. As you receive the bread and wine, you may respond as follows:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

As the ministers commune the congregation may sing the following:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

There will be a time of silence as the choir comes down for Holy Communion. Please use this time for prayer and preparation, then join in the singing of the hymns....

Communion Hymns

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Hymn #324, Page 17

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Hymn #465, Page 18

“The Priceless Grace”

Hymn #591, Page 19

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing, light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the


o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were




gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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That Priceless Grace



1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less
 2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less
 3 That pain-ful death, that pain-ful death, that pain-ful
 4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious



grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.
 blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.
 death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.
 word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.



That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949
 Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional
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*After all have returned to their places, the congregation **stands**.*

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song: *"For By Grace You Have Been Saved"*

Hymn #598, Page 21

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God

Postlude: *"Moderato"*

Ravenello

For by Grace You Have Been Saved



1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your
 2 "So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my
 3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -



own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have
 own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my
 self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my -



done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is
 own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is
 self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is



God's great gift. A - men.
 God's great gift." A - men.
 God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
 Music: ARMOLAULU, Kari Tikka
 Text and music © Fennica Gehrman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Karla Rankin</i>
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	<i>Cathy and Robin Crowder</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Ron Knicely, Gail Johnson, Robert Shaw</i>
<i>Offering Stewards:</i>	<i>Ernestine Moomaw and Eleanor Sampson</i>
<i>Acolyte:</i>	<i>Thea Franklin</i>
<i>Cup Gatherer:</i>	<i>Donna Marshall</i>
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	<i>Anne and Gordon Putnam</i>
<i>Nursery Caregivers:</i>	<i>Susie Driskill and Jean Morgan</i>
<i>Altar Flowers:</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Council Person of the Week:</i>	<i>Pete Giesen</i>

*The Chancel Flowers today are given by
to the Glory of God*

Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

March 15

Third Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.

Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding
Kelly Bayer-Derrick, Preaching

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. **Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks**, in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Pete Giesen

Barb Susen

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Ernie Campbell, Sr., Friend of Tomeys

Lou Cary, Friend of the Hites

Tommy Harvey, Friend of Several Members

Ron Denney, Friend of Brian Lundstrom & Other Members

Ellen Moyer, Sister, Sister-in-Law of Moyers

Madelon O'Neil, Sister of Deloris Wertman

Maggie Pennington, Friend of Beth Ann Doerring

Sean Ryan, Friend of Kathryn Johnson

Richard Smith, Friend of Kathryn Johnson

Tamara Stevens, Friend of Kathryn Johnson

Susan Struble, Friend of Myers

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Please advise of status changes)

Mary Bertelsen

Liz Ann Binns

Fred Brower

Jean Brower

Marie Brown

Nancy Fitzgerald

Sandra R. Hoy

Bob and Carol Knemoller

Peggy Lucas

Janet Lunger

Glenn and Flossie Myers

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Please advise of status changes)

Nancy Delaney, Dave Delaney's Wife

Lisa Dofflemeyer, Daughter of Linda Tomey

Kyle Getler, Member Relative

Bruce Joleaud, Mike Trauscht's Brother-in-Law

Maxine Pierce, Mother of Cindy Trauscht

Barbara Shifflett and Family

George Toop, Friend of Schwiesows

Members/Friends Grieving

Family of Connie Mora, Friend of the Tomeys

Family of Fred Moyer, Brother and Brother-in-Law of Moyers

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Throughout the Year

Sylvia Almarode

Berenice Archambeault

Tammy Wertman

Thea Franklin

Nancy Schwiesow

Kaitlyn Hull

The Needs of the World

Coronavirus outbreak as well as flu victims

Our care of God's Creation

Our military and first responders

Victims of the Tornadoes that caused much damage in Nashville

The blessing and privilege of our democratic process

The Church

Unity of Christ's Church in Jesus Christ alone

Our friends in the United Methodist

Church

WARM Cold Weather Shelter

LENT

This year, note the following additions to the Lenten Season:

- This year's Lenten worship focus will be the Old Testament lessons of Lent; the Sunday Old Testament readings will be the focus of the following Wednesday's Lenten worship
- **The Rev. Kelly Bayer-Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop will join us Sunday, March 15th to preach and offer a presentation of appreciation for Grace's many year hosting of ACTS (Ambassadors Community for Theological Study)**
- Holy Week worship services will feature participation and presentations from our children and youth.

See the schedule for Lent and Holy Week on the following pages, and join the journey with our Lord Jesus to new life for you and me through his death and resurrection!

Wednesday, March 11

Noon	Westminster Presbyterian Church	Lenten Lunch \$3/person (RSVP needed)
6:00 p.m.	St. James Lutheran	Season of Lent Soup Supper
7:00 p.m.	320 St James Road, Fishersville	Season of Lent Evening Prayer

Sunday, March 15

10:00 a.m.	Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Assistant to the Bishop Kelly Bayer-Derrick preaching	Third Sunday in Lent—Holy Communion
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Wednesday, March 18

Noon	First Presbyterian Church	Lenten Lunch \$3/person (RSVP needed)
6:00 p.m.	Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	Season of Lent Soup Supper
7:00 p.m.	Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	Season of Lent Evening Prayer

Sunday, March 22

10:00 a.m.	Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	Fourth Sunday in Lent—Holy Communion
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Wednesday, March 25

Noon	First Baptist Church	Lenten Lunch \$3/person (RSVP needed)
6:00 p.m.	Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	Season of Lent Soup Supper
7:00 p.m.	Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	Season of Lent Evening Prayer

Sunday, March 29

10:00 a.m.	Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	Fifth Sunday in Lent—Holy Communion
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Wednesday, April 1

Noon	Main Street United Methodist	Lenten Lunch \$3/person (RSVP needed)
6:00 p.m.	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Season of Lent Soup Supper
7:00 p.m.	1148 Ladd Road	Season of Lent Evening Prayer

Announcements



Funding is available for distribution during 2020 from our **Mission Endowment Fund**. Ministry categories are: Christian Education, Seminary/Missionary Education, Social Ministry, Disaster Relief, Alleviating Hunger, Special Music and The Grace Fund (*undesignated category*). Any member of our congregation is encouraged to submit grant requests to Grace Council. Information and forms are available in the back of the Nave. You can submit your request by placing it in the offering plate, giving it to a Council member or turning it into the Church Office. **Requests need to be submitted by Sunday, March 15.** Grace Council will review proposals in March 17 to select the grants. Please see the Request Grant Form.



Baptismal Font Proposed Design available for Review in March - Over the past year, Joan Ranzini, Pastor Paul and Council have proposed and reviewed design ideas for a Proposed Font that honors the original design of the Baptismal Font while allowing for a larger amount of water to be available for Baptisms. The Proposed Design will be available for Grace Congregation review during the month of March. Review Forms, plus an explanatory form for the Font Design will be available beginning today, March 1st. *Your input is important!* Please make comment, whether positive or negative, using the available Review Form, and place in the offering plate or box on the table in the narthex.



Virginia Synod Assembly Delegates - Synod Assembly will be Friday, June 12th at Noon - Saturday June 13th at Noon, a "24 hour" event. Grace Evangelical Lutheran receives three delegates, and we need two more delegates (one has been approved by Council at its last meeting). Grace pays for the Assembly fees, plus overnight accommodations; as a delegate, you hear a nationally-known speaker, as well as great worship, and, with a one day format, interesting and informative snapshots of the life of the Church in Virginia. The Theme for this year's Assembly is **Faithful. Bold.**
Serving. Call the Church Office or Pastor Paul if you are interested or have questions.



Pastor Paul is on Spiritual Retreat in March - Pastor Paul is at Richmond Hill Retreat Center in Richmond, VA for a Spiritual Retreat. The funds generously given by Grace congregation in honor of his 25th anniversary of ordained ministry are being used to help fund this Retreat.



We have **RE-SCHEDULED** the informational presentation by **Thrivent Action Team** presenters for Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (Dessert will be served!) The presentation is open to all congregational members that have a passion for helping others in our community. (See Grace Notes for details.)

Announcements



Grace Lutheran / Christ Tabernacle Fellowship Meal Rescheduled: *Sunday, March 29th at Noon*, Christ Tabernacle will be joining us for a fellowship lunch, which will also include a time for us to learn a little more about each other's church denominations! We'll be having a potluck, with both congregations bringing "our best" dishes to share with each other! We currently need three (3) more pots of soup. If you can bring one, please let Sylvia Almarode know at almarod@ntelos.net

Please put this fellowship time on your calendar and plan to be a part.



Confirmands, Mentors and Grace Children Help Blue Ridge Food Bank!

Starting last Sunday, Grace's Confirmands, their Mentors and other children from Grace will head out to local grocery stores to purchase food and other requested merchandise for the Blue Ridge Food Bank! They be using the funds collected from last year AND this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a great hands-on way to learn about hunger, what it takes to feed hungry families, and how God uses us to be a blessing to those in need!



Parking Lot Update - We anticipate beginning the paving of the Parking Lot in the Spring of this year. In planning for the updates of the parking lot (more handicapped spaces, islands in the main lot), we discovered an interim step of a site plan is required by the city. We are currently receiving bids from local firms, and we anticipate the drawings to be complete in time for Spring paving. We will keep the congregation informed about progress as we move forward.



Coronavirus News from the Virginia Synod: Our Virginia Synod has prepared a resource page for the Coronavirus. Though at this time Virginia has not experienced many cases, there are certain good precautions to take during this flu and cold season as well. Check out the information at <https://www.vasynod.org/covid-19/>, and please pray for those from many nations who are suffering from the virus, *as well as* many who are suffering from the flu.



Music Concerts Galore Available in February and March! Check out your Newsletter (or email or website) for three wonderful opportunities to enjoy music in our area in March:

Bach Around the Clock at Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton - our brothers and sisters invite you to a whole day and evening of music concerts on Bach's Birthday, Saturday, March 21st, beginning at 9 a.m., with concerts hourly through a 7:30 p.m. choral concert featuring the singing of Bach's very first Cantata! Many different artists and wonderful experiences are available throughout the day. See Grace Notes or Grace's website for details.

Lenoir Rhyme Choir and Brass Ensemble at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg - This nationally recognized choir from one of our Lutheran universities in North Carolina performs Sunday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Life of Grace Church
March 8-15, 2020

Day of Week	Date	Time	Meeting
TODAY— SUNDAY	03/08	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Pastor—Spiritual Retreat Sunday School Worship Choir Second Sunday in Lent Holy Communion Reverend Cynthia Long, Preaching and Presiding
Monday	03/09	6:30 p.m.	Book Study (Seminar Room)
Tuesday	03/10	9:30 a.m.	Quilting (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	03/11	10:45 a.m. Noon 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Backpacks Bible Study (Conference Room) Lenten Luncheon—Westminster Presbyterian Office On Youth (Seminar Room) St. James Lutheran Season of Lent Soup Supper St. James Lutheran Season of Lent Worship Handbell Choir Worship Choir
Thursday	03/12	8:30 a.m. 12:30-2:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Grace Walkers Bridge (Fellowship Hall) Bible Study (Conference Room)
Sunday	03/15	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Choir Third Sunday in Lent Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding Kelly Bayer-Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop, Preaching

