

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025 | 8:00 and 10:30am

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

VISITORS

We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We're glad you are here.

OUR WORSHIP

Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. In turn, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

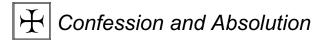
We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW SETTING 1

Watchword: The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. – 1 John 3:8b ESV

PRELUDE | WELCOME | OPENING PRAYER

Prelude: Paul Young, trombone: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"



INVOCATION

The people please stand.

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

- P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all 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.
- C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.

- P: Most merciful God,
- C: we confess that we are in bondage 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.

ABSOLUTION

The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.

- P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given us his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God and bestows on them his Holy Spirit. All who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.
- C: Amen.

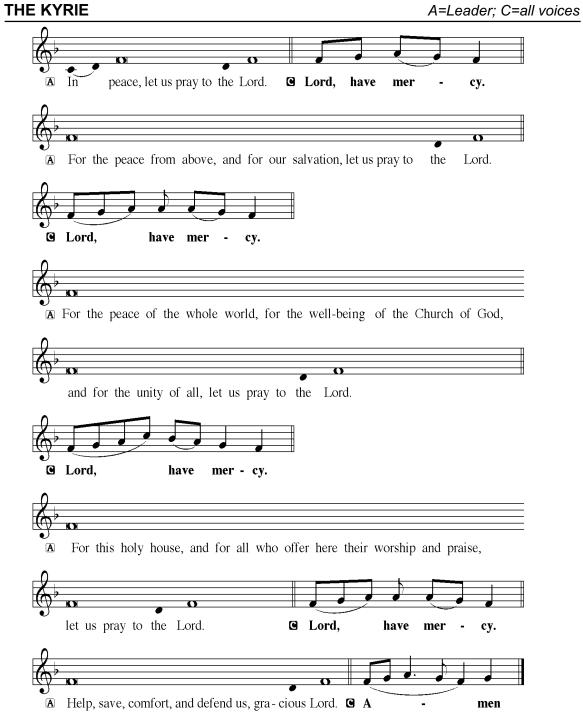
The people stand.



Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center aisle at this time.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.



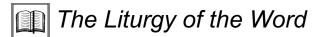
PRAYER OF THE DAY



P: Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The people may be seated.



THE FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

L: A reading from Deuteronomy.

God gives out mercy, and we give out gratitude.

¹"When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.' ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God. ⁵"And you shall make response before the Lord your God, 'A

wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O Lord, have given me.' And you shall set it down before the Lord your God and worship before the Lord your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

The verses are chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.



¹He who dwells in the shelter of | the Most High,* abides under the shadow of | the Almighty.

²He shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge | and my stronghold," my God in whom I | put my trust."

⁹Because you have made the | Lord your refuge,* and the Most High your | habitation,

¹⁰there shall no evil hap- | pen to you,* neither shall any plague come | near your dwelling. ¹¹For he shall give his angels charge | over you,* to keep you in | all your ways.
¹²They shall bear you | in their hands,* lest you dash your foot a- | gainst a stone.

¹³You shall tread upon the li- | on and the adder;* you shall trample the young lion

and the serpent un- | der your feet.

¹⁴Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I de- | liver him;* I will protect him, because he | knows my name.

¹⁵He shall call upon me, and I will | answer him;* I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring | him to honor.

¹⁶With long life will I sat- | isfy him,* and show him | my salvation.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 10:8b-13

L: A reading from Romans.

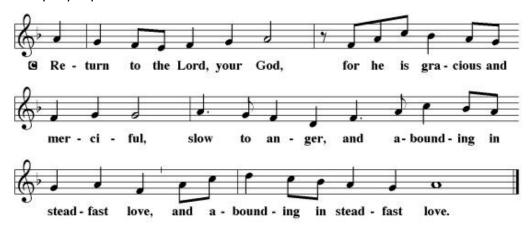
God desires that we call on Him. Out of our shame, God gives us salvation. With our mouths and our lives, we share that good news.

^{8b}"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE

The people please stand.



THE GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4th chapter.



¹And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone." ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." ⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard

you,' ¹¹and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" ¹²And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The people may be seated.

SERMON	Pastor Tom Jacobson	
HYMN OF THE DAY	Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God	Blue Book 783

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The people stand.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 \div resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

A: As we travel our Lenten Journey, **C: hear our prayer.**

- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen.



THE PEACE

- P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.

OFFERING

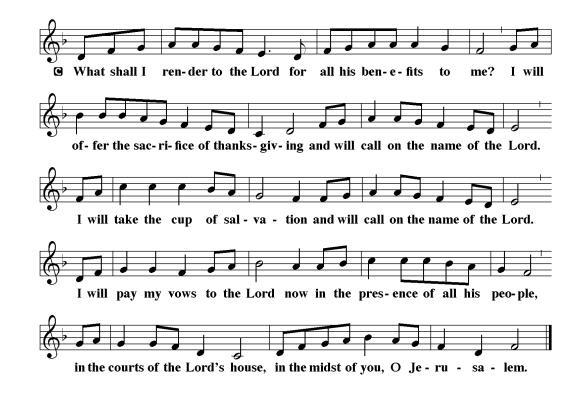
Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.

Special Music: Paul Young, trombone, and Grant McCallum, trumpet: "Abide with Me"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

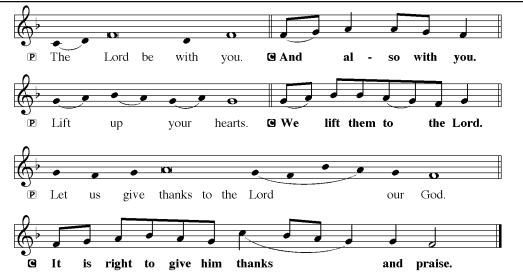
The people stand.



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,
- C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

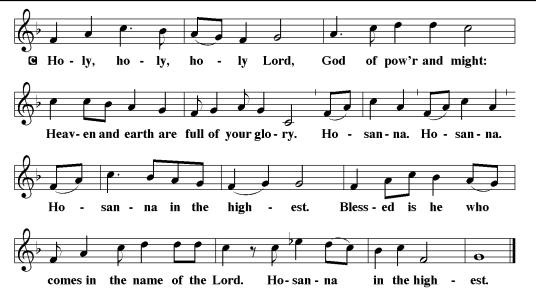
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

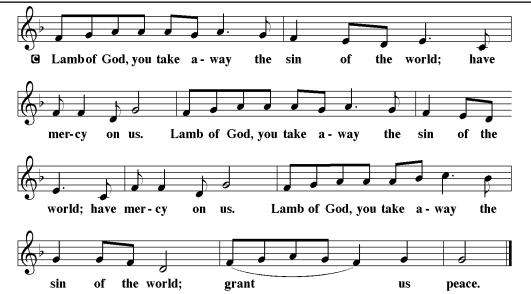
- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead 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 FRACTION

- P: Our Lord Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
- C: Lord, give us this bread always.

The people may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION

Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or

assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

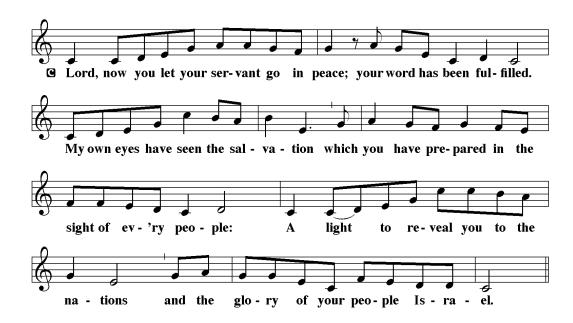
Hymns during distribution: Blue Book 737, 702

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The people please stand.

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





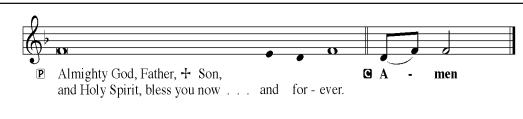
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

C: Amen.



THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL



A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Blue Book 660

THE POSTLUDE

We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.

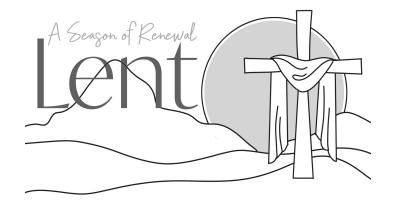
PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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COMMEMORATIONS:

As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

Mar. 12 Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 2 LENT (MARCH 16)

Genesis 15:1-12Psalm 27Philippians 3:17-4:1Luke 13:31-35