

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 16, 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!

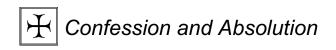
PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

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: But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8 ESV

PRELUDE | WELCOME | OPENING PRAYER



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 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.



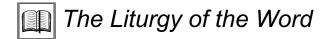
PRAYER OF THE DAY



P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son 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

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Genesis 15:1-12
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L: A reading from Genesis.

When things look impossible, God can make a way. God makes a promise to Abram of many descendants, as many as the stars.

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. ⁷And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 27

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



¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?* The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I | be afraid?

²When evildoers came upon me to eat | up my flesh,*

it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stum- | bled and fell.

³Though an army should en- | camp against me,* yet my heart shall not | be afraid; ⁴and though war should rise | up against me,* yet will I put my | trust in him.

⁵One thing have I asked of the Lord; one | thing I seek;* that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days | of my life;
⁶to behold the fair beauty | of the Lord* and to seek him | in his temple.

⁷For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe | in his shelter;* he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high up- | on a rock.
⁸Even now he lifts | up my head* above my enemies | round about me.

⁹Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds | of great gladness;* I will sing and make music | to the Lord.

¹⁰Hearken to my voice, O Lord, | when I call;* have mercy on me and | answer me.

¹¹You speak in my heart and say, | "Seek my face."* Your face, Lord, | will I seek. ¹²Hide not your | face from me,* nor turn away your servant | in displeasure.

¹³You have been my helper; cast me | not away;* do not forsake me,

O God of | my salvation.

¹⁴Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,* the Lord | will sustain me.

¹⁵Show me your | way, O Lord;* lead me on a level path, because | of my enemies.
¹⁶Deliver me not into the hand of my | adversaries,* for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those | who speak malice.

¹⁷What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness | of the Lord* in the land | of the living!

¹⁸Oh, tarry and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong, and he shall com- | fort your heart;* wait patiently | for the Lord.

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:17-4:1

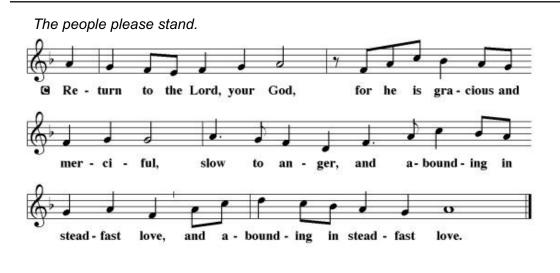
L: A reading from Philippians.

Paul reminds his congregation that it is not easy to stand firm in the Lord. But we are citizens of heaven and are called to imitate God's faithful people while on earth.

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

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

THE VERSE



THE GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13th chapter.



³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish

away from Jerusalem.' ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The people may be seated.

SERMON	Pastor Tom Jacobson	
HYMN OF THE DAY	My God, How Wonderful Thou Art	Green Book 524
THE APOSTLES' CRE	ED	
The people stand.		
l believe in God. th	e 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

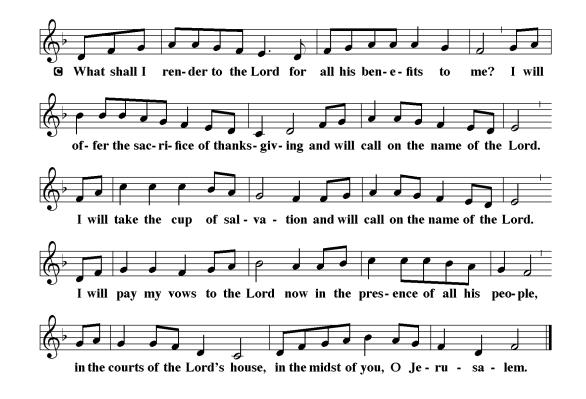
Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.

Choir Anthem (10:30 only): "Let Me Walk With You"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

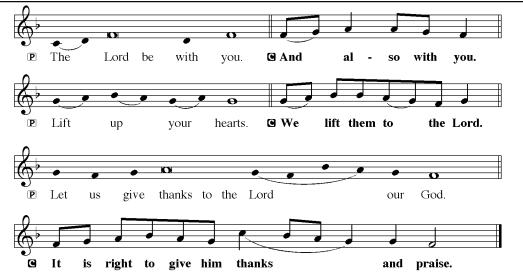
The people stand.



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.

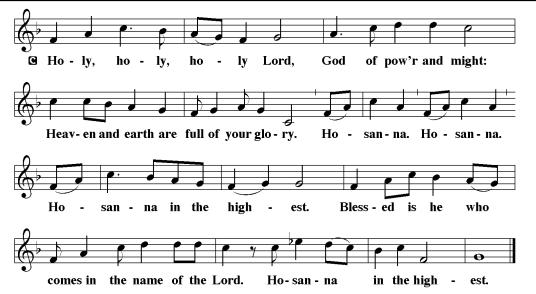
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

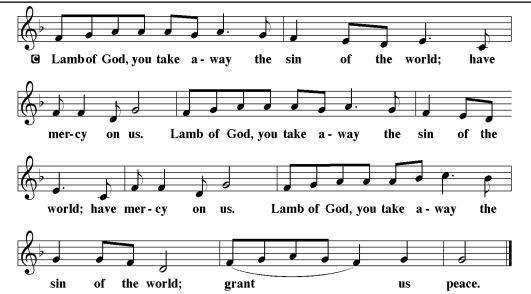
- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead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

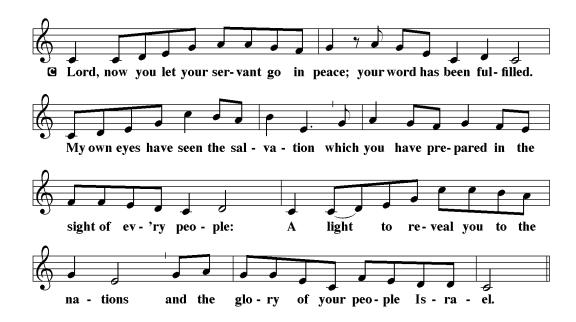
Hymns during distribution: Green Book 526, 99

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





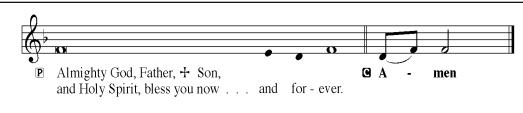
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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!

Green Book 415

THE POSTLUDE

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

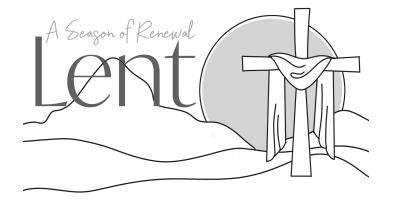
PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

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. 17 Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, 461

Mar. 19 Joseph, guardian of our Lord

Mar. 22 Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to the American Indians, 1758

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 3 LENT (MARCH 23)

 Isaiah 55:1-9
 Psalm 63:1-8

 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9