



Fourth Sunday in Lent

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, L.C.M.S

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The Sacrament of Holy Communion at Grace

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. The bread and wine do not symbolize or represent the body and blood of Christ, but are the real presence, as he says of "This is my body. . . This is my blood."

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with Pastor Matthews.

For further study, see Matt. 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021

Numbers 21:4–9

Ephesians 2:1–10

John 3:14–21

Jesus Is Lifted Up on the Cross so that We May Look to Him and Live

The people sinned by speaking "*against God and against Moses,*" and the Lord called them to repentance by sending fiery serpents, which "*bit the people, so that many people of Israel died*" (Num. 21:4–6). When the people confessed their sin, the Lord provided a means of rescue from death. He instructed Moses to "*make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole,*" so that "*if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live*" (Num. 21:8–9). Thus, God sent His Son into the world, in the likeness of our sin and death, and lifted Him up on the pole of the cross, that whoever looks to Him in faith "*may have eternal life*" (John 3:14–16). By His cross, "*the light has come into the world,*" not for condemnation, but "*that the world might be saved through him*" (John 3:17–19). While we "*were dead in the trespasses and sins*" in which we once lived (Eph. 2:1), God loved us, calling us to repentance and raising us up with Christ to live "*with him in the heavenly places*" (Eph. 2:4–6).

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Absolution

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

LSB 915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Public domain

Stand

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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**
- 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 † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 27:3-5; antiphon: Ps. 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Kyrie

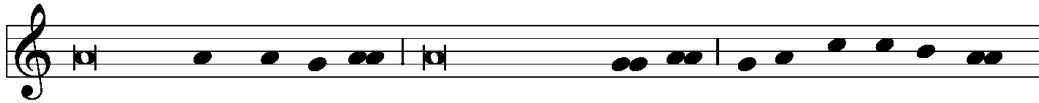
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



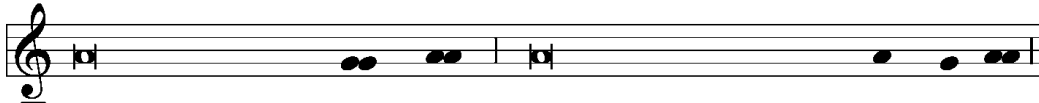
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



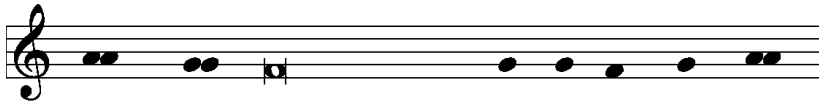
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 107:1–9

¹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good,*
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD | say so,*
whom he has redeemed from | trouble**

³and gathered in | from the lands,*
from the east and from the west,
from the north and | from the south.

⁴**Some wandered in | desert wastes,*
finding no way to a city to | dwell in;**

⁵hungry and | thirsty,*
their soul fainted with- | in them.

⁶**Then they cried to the LORD in their | trouble,*
and he delivered them from | their distress.**

⁷He led them by a | straight way*
till they reached a city to | dwell in.

⁸**Let them thank the LORD for his | steadfast love,*
for his wondrous works to the chil- | dren of men!**

⁹For he satisfies the | longing soul,*
and the hungry soul he fills | with good things.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the | beginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Epistle

Ephesians 2:1–10

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is

not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse for Lent

LSB 173



C 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.

Holy Gospel

John 3:14–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁴And 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.

¹⁶[Jesus said:] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571



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 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so 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.

Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

- 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 Words of Our Lord

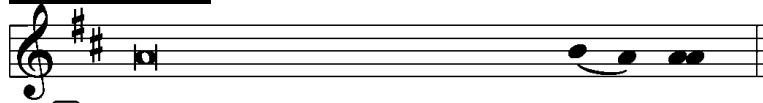
LSB 179

- 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 ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

- P** 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 ✠ 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 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C 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, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

After communing the individuals assisting in the distribution, the congregation is invited to come forward for reception of the Sacrament. The usher will invite you come forward in accordance with social distancing precautions. For those who desire to be communed at their seats, the sacrament will be brought to you following distribution at the front of the church.

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle -- Nunc Dimittis

LSB 182



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

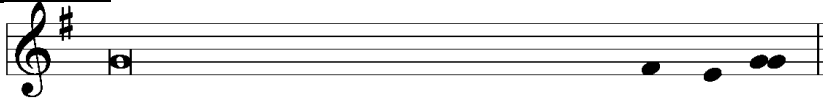
A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - - men.

Benediction

LSB 183



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 ✠ give you peace.



C A - - - men.

566 By Grace I'm Saved

LSB 566



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

- 5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?
- 6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

Sending

- P** Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!
- C** Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments

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Life Quote for the week of March 14, 2021

“Christ does not refuse our sense of tragedy or awareness of pain. He bears it in love, affirming our condition, carrying our sorrows to the end, all the way to the heart of God.” *Jill Carattini, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Worship in-person and via Facebook Live!

We give thanks to God for sustaining us through these trying times. For all who are ill, do not feel comfortable in larger groups, or cannot get to our services, we will continue to stream our worship services using Facebook Live! At our regular Sunday morning worship time (10:45 a.m.) we broadcast the worship service. You can watch the live worship service, or you can view the service later by going to the Grace Lutheran Tacoma Facebook page or Grace’s website (www.GraceLutheranTacoma.org) under the about us tab, click on worship. There you will find links to the video of the service, a copy of the bulletin, and a copy of the sermon.

Bulletins for the service are mailed out on Thursday or Friday each week. If you have not received a bulletin by Saturday afternoon, please message Pastor Matthews through the Facebook page (Messenger) and a copy of the service folder will be sent to you in reply.

Your feedback on these services is greatly appreciated. If you are having difficulties accessing the services, or if other difficulties arise, please contact us through the Facebook page or by sending an email to Pastor@GraceLutheranTacoma.org.

Reading and studying the Lutheran Confessions

We are reviewing options for returning to our study of the Lutheran Confessions. Stay tuned for more information on when classes will resume.



Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

In association with Prince of Peace we started a joint study using the book, “The Fire and the Staff” written by Klemet I. Preus. Pastors Zeigler and Matthews are teaching the class together. Copies of the book are available through Concordia Publishing House CPH.org or Amazon (Amazon.com). Cost is \$33.99. If you would like to participate and cannot afford the book, please let Pastor Matthews know and we will obtain a copy for you. Please plan to attend and strengthen your faith.



Midweek Bible Study will resume soon. We meet Thursday mornings at Prince of Peace. We will conclude our study of the Gospel of Luke and then begin a study of Isaiah. Our sessions begin at 10:30 and conclude around 11:30.

Shop on Amazon.com? Support our congregation

Amazon.com has a program that contributes 0.5% of purchases to a charity of your choosing. AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is the website through which purchases are made and donations to Grace Lutheran Church accrue.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Grace every time you shop, at no cost to you.

We have received \$99.40 so far. Thanks to all for supporting us.

Prayer Requests

This week we remember in our prayers, members and friends for whom prayers are requested,
including:

Healing

Alda S
Judy G
Dan B
Joan D
Jeremiah R
Jim L
Chris R
Dori M
Kirk D
Rick S

Healing/Other

Eric S
Randy H
Hank B
Grant O
Jennifer Z
Ray C
Eric H
Rick L
Charles S
Carole M

Cancer

James M
Jason
Jerry M
Bobby M
Marion B

Homebound

Doug B
Karen J

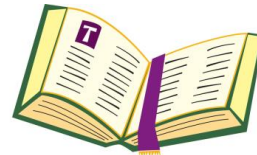


Prayer
Requests

Prepare for next

Spend a few minutes this week reading and thinking about the appointed scriptures for next week.

Jeremiah 31:31–34
Hebrews 5:1–10
Mark 10:(32–34) 35–45



Scripture Readings
for next week

This Week (and next) at Grace

Today	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study – “The Fire and the Staff” Third Sunday in Lent Worship Service in-person and via Facebook Live!
March 16 th	10:00 a.m.	Betty Ann Psalm Study
March 17 th	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
March 21 st	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study – “The Fire and the Staff” Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship Service in-person and via Facebook Live!

