

# *Grace Lutheran Church Welcomes You!*

## **Ephesians 2:8**

**For by grace you have  
been saved through faith,  
and that not of yourselves;  
it is the gift of God.**

***By Grace you have been saved!  
“We have decided to follow Jesus and  
There’s no turning back!”***

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

\*\*\*\*\*  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021

\*\*\*\*\*  
Pastor Jim Helgren

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Prelude & Announcements

Opening Hymn "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

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**

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.

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**

Kyrie: **C: response... "Lord, have mercy. ....Amen**

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

The Prayer of the Day See Insert

The First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9 See Insert

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 See Insert

Second Lesson: Ephesian 2:1-10 See Insert

**C: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel: John 3:14-21 See Insert

P: The Gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: ....The Gospel of the Lord"

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon

## Hymn of the Day      “Glory Be to Jesus”

## Apostles' Creed

**C: 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 resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Offering

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

## Offering Prayer

## Prayers of the Church

P: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**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**

## Benediction and Dismissal

**Closing Hymn**      “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

## Postlude

***We pray always for . . .***

*Robert Armknecht, Bill Bohling, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels,  
Evelyn Effken, Bruce Gerking, Mary Goudie, Casey Holsing,  
Axl Walters,*

*our military men and women, their families and their leaders.*

***We also remember in our prayers . . .***

*Grace, Oscar & Sabra, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania.*

*You may email the church office at [grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

***You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church)  
402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613(cell)***

**Today 3/14/2021**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.*

**Tuesday 3/16/2021**

*Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day*

*Church Council – 7:00 p.m.*



**Wednesday 3/17/2021**

*Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.*

*Midweek Lenten Worship at Grace Lutheran Church – 7:00 p.m.*

*“In Community with Those on the Margins”*

**NEXT SUNDAY 3/21/2021**

*Worship with communion – 8:30 a.m.*

If you would like to bring an **EASTER LILY** to share with the church, you can bring them at any time. If the Easter lily is in memory or honor of someone, please add that information to the sheet at the back of the church. Be sure to label your Easter lily with your name for when you come to pick it up.

For those Thrivent Members who have Choice Dollars, the deadline to designate those is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt or go online before March 31<sup>st</sup> to designate those funds. If you have any questions regarding your Choice Dollars please contact Diane Wilken or your Thrivent Representative.



# Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 14, 2021

## Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

**Numbers 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>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 detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

<sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

## Psalm

**Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; tone 8**



Give thanks to the LORD,  
for the <sup>1</sup>LORD is good,  
for God's mercy en- <sup>1</sup> dures  
forever.

<sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the

<sup>1</sup>LORD proclaim

that God redeemed them  
from the hand <sup>1</sup> of the foe,

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in <sup>1</sup> from the lands;  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north  
and <sup>1</sup> from the south.

<sup>17</sup>Some were fools  
and took re- <sup>1</sup> bellious paths;  
through their sins  
they <sup>1</sup> were afflicted.

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all man- <sup>1</sup> ner of food  
and drew near <sup>1</sup> to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>Then in their trouble  
they cried <sup>1</sup> to the LORD  
and you delivered them  
from <sup>1</sup> their distress.

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your <sup>1</sup> word  
and healed them  
and rescued them  
<sup>1</sup> from the grave.

*continued*

**21**Let them give thanks to you, **LORD**,  
for your <sup>1</sup>steadfast love  
and your wonderful works  
<sup>1</sup>for all people.

**22**Let them offer sacrifices  
<sup>1</sup>of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds  
with <sup>1</sup>shouts of joy.

## Second Reading

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace

## Ephesians 2:1-10

you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

## Gospel

[Jesus said:] “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“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.

<sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not con-

## John 3:14-21

demned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”