

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



*By Grace you have been saved!  
"We have decided to follow Jesus and  
There's no turning back!"*

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**February 26, 2023**

**Pastor Jim Helgren**

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

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Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn LBW Hymn # 230

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Postlude

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*Noisy coin offering will be collected Today.*

*All loose change will be designated for  
Oaks Indian Center.*



# Today's Readings

First Sunday in Lent  
February 26, 2023

## Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

## First Reading

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

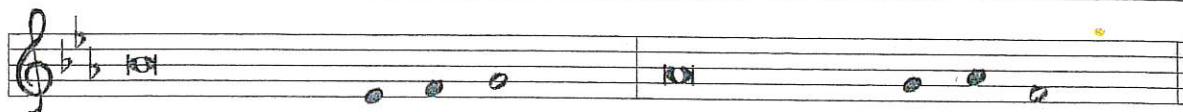
<sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the

garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

## Psalm

**Psalm 32; tone 10**



Happy are they  
whose transgressions <sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
and whose sin is <sup>1</sup> put away!  
<sup>2</sup>Happy are they  
to whom the LORD im- <sup>1</sup> puts no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there <sup>1</sup> is no guile!  
<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue,  
my bones with- <sup>1</sup> ered away,  
because of my groaning <sup>1</sup> all day long.  
<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me  
<sup>1</sup> day and night;  
my moisture was dried up  
as in the <sup>1</sup> heat of summer.  
<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and did not con- <sup>1</sup> ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess  
my transgressions to the LORD."

Then you forgave me  
the guilt <sup>1</sup> of my sin.  
<sup>6</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make  
their prayers to you in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow,  
they <sup>1</sup> shall not reach them.

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve <sup>1</sup> me from trouble;  
you surround me  
with shouts <sup>1</sup> of deliverance.  
<sup>8</sup>"I will instruct you and teach you  
in the way that <sup>1</sup> you should go;  
I will guide you <sup>1</sup> with my eye.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule,  
which have no <sup>1</sup> understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will <sup>1</sup> not stay near you."

*continued*

<sup>10</sup>Great are the tribulations <sup>1</sup> of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those  
who trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous,  
and rejoice <sup>1</sup> in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are <sup>1</sup> true of heart.

## Second Reading

## Romans 5:12-19

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—  
<sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.  
<sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemna-

tion, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

## Gospel

## Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

*Grace Bentzinger, Bill Bohling, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Eric Fass,  
Kathy Helgren, Eugene Rosenthal & Haleigh Werner*

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

*Anna, Vanessa, Diana & Meshack, orphans we are sponsoring  
in Tanzania.*

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

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box in the  
south office. Church office email [grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

**Today 2/26/23**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

**Tuesday 2/28/23**

**Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day**

**Wednesday 3/1/23**

*Confirmation – 4:00 p.m.*

*Midweek Lenten Worship – Pastor Ken*

*Service at Hope Lutheran – 7:00 p.m.*

**Friday 3/3/23**

*World Day of Prayer at Grace Lutheran Church – 2:00 p.m.*

**Next Sunday 3/5/23**

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

**Please be sure to sign up for a couple of Sundays of  
Worship Duty – sign up sheet is at the back of the church.**

*TODAY, February 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a Freewill Soup  
Luncheon from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at  
St. Paul's UCC, Osage.*

**World Day of Prayer**

March 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Grace Lutheran Church basement. Come join us for the afternoon to pray for the Women of Taiwan and learn about their country and cultures. We will be having a singing group entertain us from Johnson County Central School.

Next Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a Chicken & Biscuit Dinner at the Syracuse United Methodist Church from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Serving creamed chicken & biscuit dinner complete with drinks and homemade desserts.

Freewill Offering

**Luther League**

The Luther League will have an informational meeting after the Lenten service at Grace on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Opportunities for youth fellowship and service will be extended to include confirmation students through seniors in high school. Parents and students are invited to attend to hear what Luther League has to offer. We will also discuss our first fellowship activity: bowling. If you would like your child to participate in Luther League, but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Nick or Lisa Weber at 402-310-2136