

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes you to
The Great Thanksgiving*



*Everyone is Welcome!
Taste and See that the Lord is Good,
Let us rejoice together!*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 17, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn "My Song is Love Unknown" 4 verses LBW Hymn # 94

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Children's message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day LBW Hymn # 148

"Now the Green Blade Rises "

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Offering

Offertory WOV Hymn # 753

"You Are the Seed" verses 1-3 (no refrain)

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Post-Communion Canticle (Spoken) Page 73

Benediction

Closing Hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" LBW Hymn # 259

Dismissal

We carry the "light" out into the world! Depart to serve!



Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024

Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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

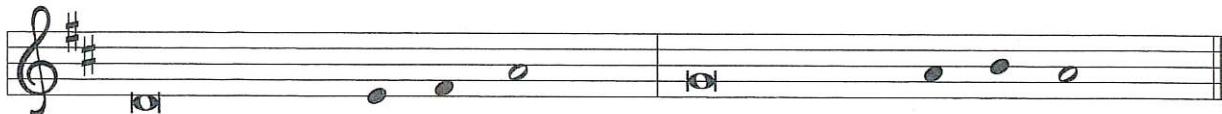
Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,

says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-12; tone 4



Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your ¹ steadfast love;
in your great compassion
blot out ¹ my offenses.
2Wash me through and through
¹ from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹ from my sin.
3For I know ¹ my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹ er before me.
4Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil ¹ in your sight;
so you are justified
when you speak
and right ¹ in your judgment.
5Indeed, I was born
¹ steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹ mother's womb.

6Indeed, you delight in truth
¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom
¹ deep within.
7Remove my sins with hyssop,
and I ¹ shall be clean;
wash me,
and I shall be pur- ¹ er than snow.
8Let me hear ¹ joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken
¹ may rejoice.
9Hide your face ¹ from my sins,
and blot out ¹ all my wickedness.
10Create in me a clean ¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- ¹ it
within me.

continued

Psalm, continued

¹¹Cast me not away
from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- ¹ it
from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of
your salvation
and sustain me
with your boun- ¹ tiful Spirit.

or Psalm 119:9-16 [not printed]

Second Reading

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
⁶as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of
Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with

Hebrews 5:5-10

loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel

John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

TODAY'S READINGS March 17, 2024

Volume 55, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 [40-47].

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AN INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

We believe that with the bread and wine one receives the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome other Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. Children who have not had first Communion instruction may come forward for a blessing.

We pray always for . . .

Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Becky Knake

We also remember in our prayers . . .

*Winfrida, Juliet, Vanesa & Evance, 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

Today 3/17/24 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

Tuesday 3/19/24

Piecemakers – Blanket Making – ALL DAY

Wednesday 3/20/24

*8th Grade Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.
Lenten Worship @ Grace Lutheran – 7:00 p.m.*

Thursday 3/21/24

Lenten Gathering @ Grace Lutheran – 11:30 a.m.

Next Sunday 3/24/24 PALM SUNDAY

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

If you would like to bring an Easter Lily to share with us, there is a signup sheet on the back table and also in the SE office.

During the month of March, we will be collecting Winter Clothing for men & women for Operation Stand Down, to be taken as Tangible Offering at the ELCW Spring Gathering. See the list in the March Tower Echoes and the back of the church.

The Midweek Lenten March 20 at Grace 7:00 p.m.

The final Thursday Lenten Gathering will be held at Grace Lutheran on March 21. We will begin serving the meal at 11:45 a.m. and have a service with a theme from the night before at about 12:10 p.m. Invite others to also attend with you.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 28—Maundy Thursday at Grace—7:00 p.m.

March 29—Good Friday at Hope—7:00 p.m.

75th Anniversary Celebration Meal

The 75th Anniversary Committee met on February 19th. Included on the agenda was a discussion on the possible financial arrangements for the 75th Anniversary Celebration meal. The committee recommended to the Grace Lutheran Church Council that:

- Every Sunday in April a receptacle will be placed on the back table of the church sanctuary for donations for the meal expense. All donations will go towards the 75th Anniversary Celebration meal.
- At the 75th Anniversary Celebration, there will be a freewill donation box by the picture display board(s), on which there will be an eloquently written statement regarding donations. Any donations will go for expenses related to the 75th Anniversary Celebration, including the meal. Any remaining donations will be placed in the General Fund of Grace Lutheran Church.
- The offering accepted during the worship service was previously designed to be divided evenly between the ELCA's Mission Field Nebraska and the Osage Food Pantry.

This was approved at the February 20th Grace Lutheran Church Council meeting.