

Grace Lutheran Church

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Pastor Jim Helgren

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG - ELW #597 – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS - ELW p. 94 *Please stand in body or spirit to receive forgiveness.*

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

A: 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.

A: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

A: We confess that we are captive 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen. Assembly sits.

GREETING - p. 203

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

KYRIE - p. 203

PRAYER OF THE DAY - Please see insert. Response after the prayer: **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27 - Please see insert and read responsively

SECOND READING – Philippians 3:17—4:1 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

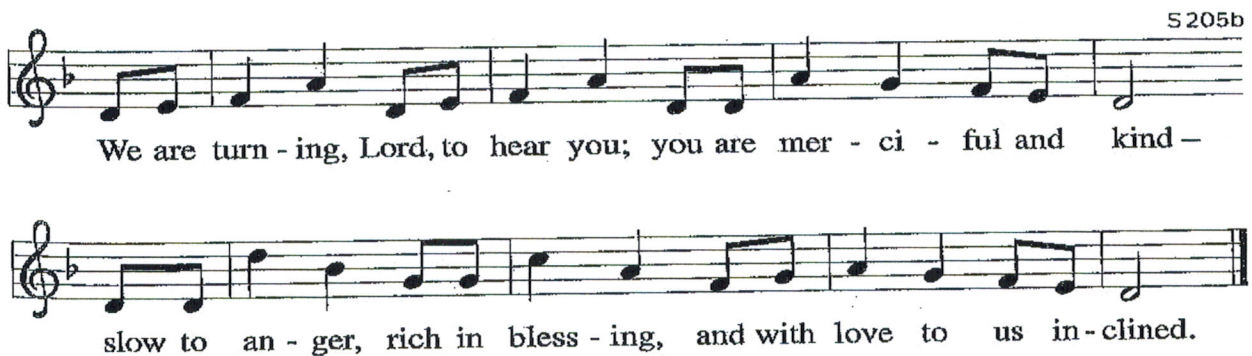
R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – for Lent p. 205b

During Lent:

S 205b



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -

slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

P: The holy gospel according to

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 13:31-35 Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ. *The assembly sits.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW #613 – “Thy Holy Wings”

NICENE CREED - p. 104

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our
salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin
Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he
suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He
will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no
end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and
the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken
through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We
acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - p.206 Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

PEACE - p. 206

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY - “Cultivating Love through Response” hymn - ELW #763

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song” - verses 3 and 4

GREAT THANKSGIVING - p. 206

LORD'S PRAYER - p. 208

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.

LAMB OF GOD - p. 208

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION FOLLOWED by READING - p. 113

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

BLESSING - p. 209 - Response after the blessing:

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL - p. 209 - Response after the dismissal:

A: Thanks be to God. *The assembly sits.*

SENDING SONG - ELW #705 – "God of Grace and God of Glory"

Postlude

Announcements

TODAY 3/16/25 *Second Sunday in Lent*

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

MONDAY 3/17/25 *Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

TUESDAY 3/18/25

Piecemakers Blanket Making

Church Council – 7:00 p.m.



WEDNESDAY 3/19/25

8th Grade Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Worship @ Grace Lutheran Church – 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY 3/20/25

Thursday Lenten Luncheon Gathering @ Grace Lutheran - 11:30 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY 3/23/25 *Third Sunday in Lent*

Worship– 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

We pray always for . . .

*Pastor Steve Billington, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Char Helgren, Becky Knake,
Axl Walters, Joan Wellensiek, Andy Wellensiek & Haleigh Werner*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Winfride, Juliet, Vanesa & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania

Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box in the south office.

You may email the church office grace68329@gmail.com

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

Please join us for fellowship in the basement following worship 😊

Candles for Mosaic

Mosaic in Beatrice is requesting candles, new or used, stick, pillar or glass-contained for an employment opportunity for their residents. The residents will melt the candles down and then add saw dust. Finally, the mixture is poured into small cups to cool and be sold as fire starters. The fire starters can be used in both fireplaces and fire pits. The price is \$5.00 for 20 cups.

There is a box on the bench in the basement for collection of these candles.

Tanzania Scholarship Student Info & Letter Writing

We will be receiving letters from our Tanzania students that we are sponsoring in the next week so you can learn more about your student and write a letter to them introducing our church family as sponsors.

You can send a photo as well as **up to \$20 in cash** to your student if you would like to do so but it is not required.

Please have letters back to the church office no later than April 3rd.



Today's Readings

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Prayer of the Day

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share 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

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, 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, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans,

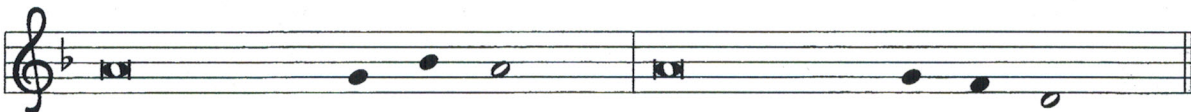
to give you this land to possess.” ⁸But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Psalm

Psalm 27; tone 9



The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then ¹ shall I fear?

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

**²When evildoers close in against me
to de-¹ your my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies,
will stum-¹ ble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart ¹ will not fear.

Though war rise up against me,
my trust will ¹ not be shaken.

**⁴One thing I ask of the LORD;
one ¹ thing I seek;**

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 seek God ¹ in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble
God will ¹ give me shelter,

continued

hide me in the hidden places
of the sanctuary,
and raise me high up-¹ on a rock.
⁶**Even now my head is lifted up**
above my enemies¹ who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice
in the sanctuary,
sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music
¹ to the LORD.
⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, ¹ when I call;
have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.
⁸**My heart speaks your message—**
¹ “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, ¹ I will seek.
⁹Hide not your face from me,
turn not away from your ser-¹ vant
in anger.

Cast me not away—
you have been my helper;
forsake me not,
O God of ¹ my salvation.
¹⁰**Though my father and my moth-¹ er**
forsake me,
the LORD will ¹ take me in.
¹¹Teach me your ¹ way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path,
because of ¹ my oppressors.
¹²**Subject me not to the will¹ of my foes,**
for they rise up against me,
false witnesses¹ breathing violence.
¹³This I believe—that I will see
the goodness ¹ of the LORD
in the land ¹ of the living!
¹⁴**Wait for the LORD¹ and be strong.**
Take heart and wait¹ for the LORD!

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are

expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of

Jerusalem.’” ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”