

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



*Join Us for*  
**WORSHIP**

*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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Pastor Jim Helgren

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**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG - ELW # 319 "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"**

**RITE OF INFANT BAPTISM – ELW page 227**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY - Please see handout.**

**FIRST READING –Please see handout.**

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM - Please see handout and read responsively**

**SECOND READING – Please see handout.**

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (ELW p. 151b) *Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.***

*During Lent:*



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.

P: The holy gospel according to ....

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

**GOSPEL** – Please see handout.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** - ELW # 504 *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN** - ELW #884 - "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** – (ELW p. 152)

Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**A: hear our prayer.**

**SING LORD'S PRAYER** – SEE HANDOUT – *Please stand in body or spirit for 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.**

**BLESSING** – (ELW p. 155)  
Response after the blessing:  
**A: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL** – (ELW p. 155)  
Response after the blessing:  
**A: Thanks be to God.** *The assembly sits.*

*Please join us for  
fellowship in the  
basement  
following worship ☺*

**SENDING SONG** - ELW # 624 “*Jesus, Still Lead On*”

## **POSTLUDE**

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

*Louis Bentzinger, Gerry Brezenski, Linda Daniels, Julie Effken, Elaine Hauberg,  
Char Helgren, Kathi Johnson, Diane Roesener, & Joan Wellensiek*

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

*Winfrida, Juliana, Hassan, and Evance, orphans sponsored in Tanzania*

***We welcome this morning, Rutledge John Finke, born 4/2/21 and his sister  
Maggie Jo Finke born 10/19/22, into God’s Kingdom and our Grace Lutheran Church  
family through Rite of Infant Baptism. Parents are Laura & Benjamin Finke. Their  
sponsors are Jessica Kirchhoff and Carrie & Adam Badberg.  
Laura Finke was brought into membership today also.***

# **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

*February 22, 2026*

## *Announcements*

**TODAY 2/22/26** *First Sunday in Lent*

*Worship - 8:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

*Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship*

**TUESDAY 2/24/26**

*Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day*

**WEDNESDAY 2/25/26**

*Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.*

*Grace Confirmation - 6:00 p.m.*

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

*Fellowship following in the Church Basement*

**THURSDAY 2/26/26**

*Thursday Lenten Gathering & Lunch @ Grace – 11:30 ish*

**NEXT SUNDAY 3/1/26** *Second Sunday in Lent*

*Worship with Communion – 8:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.*

*Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship*

*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](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's Readings

First Sunday in Lent  
February 22, 2026

## 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

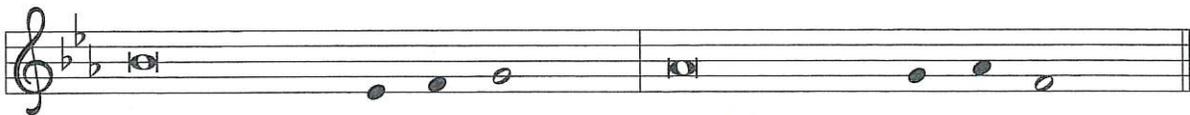
The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you 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> putes 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>for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern 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 gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the gift is not like the effect of the one

man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign 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 through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through 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 tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward 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 glory, <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>Then 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.