

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



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

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Jim Helgren

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**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG**

**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 – (ELW p. 147)**

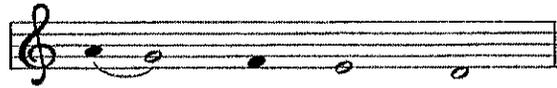
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

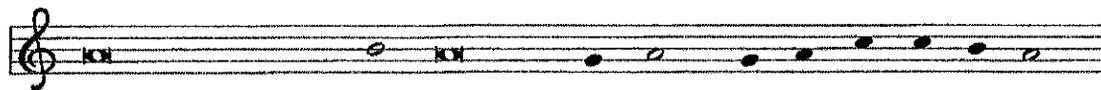
**KYRIE – (ELW p. 147)**



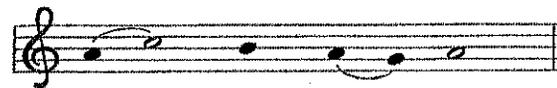
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



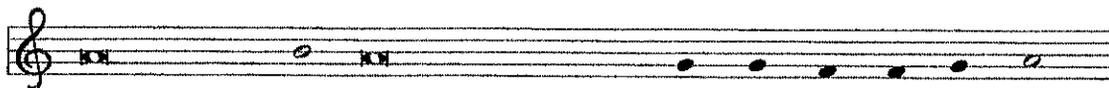
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

**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. S151a) *Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*

S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to ....

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

**GOSPEL** – 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**

**NICENE CREED – (ELW 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 – (ELW p.152)**

Response after each portion of the prayer:

**P:** Lord, in your mercy,

**A:** hear our prayer.

**PEACE – (ELW p. 152) *Please stand in body or spirit***

*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**

**OFFERING HYMN - “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” hymn - ELW #884**

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.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING – (ELW p. 152 & 153)**

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

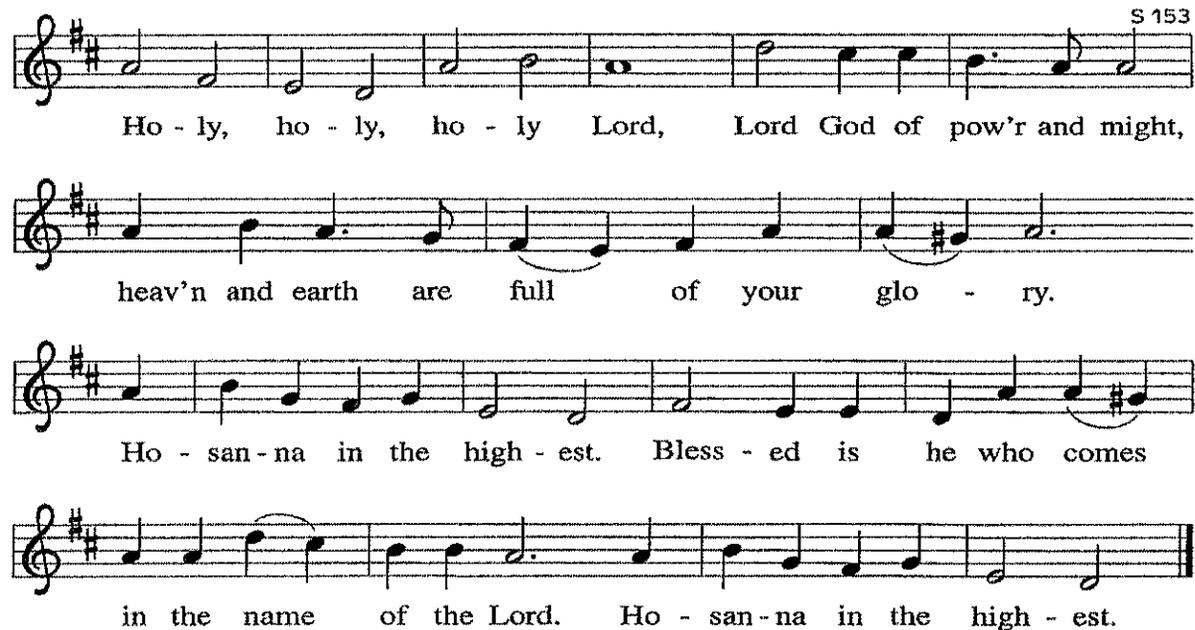
P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: it is right to give our thanks and praise.**

S 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER – (ELW p. 154)**

**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 – (ELW p. 154)

S 154



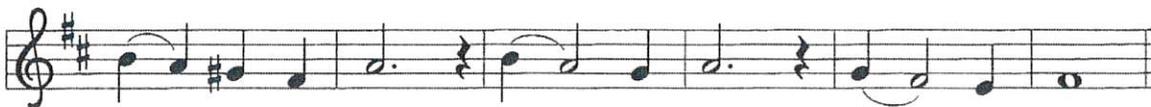
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION FOLLOWED by READING – (ELW p. 113)

**A:** 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.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### BLESSING – (ELW p. 155)

Response after the blessing:

**A:** Amen.

### DISMISSAL – (ELW p. 155)

Response after the dismissal:

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

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

## SENDING SONG

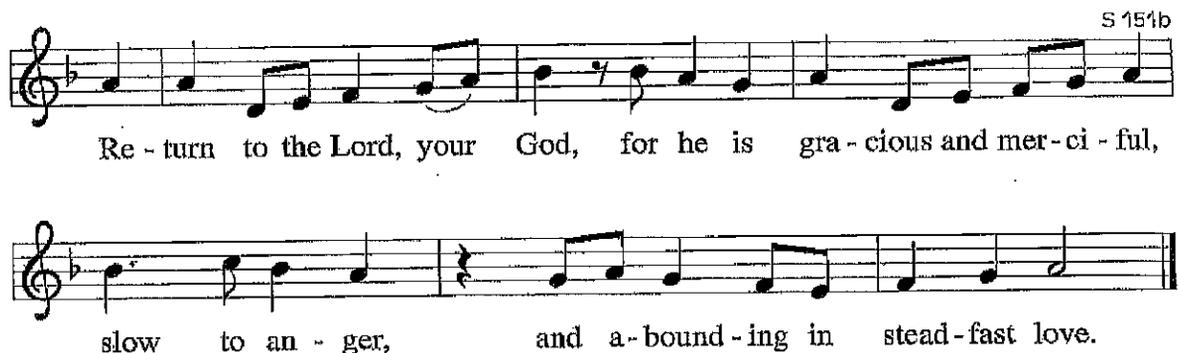
Postlude

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

During Lent - we will not sing the Hymn of Praise  
(skip page 5 in red bulletin folder)

Gospel acclamation ELW Page 151b - Return to the Lord  
(Page 6 in red bulletin folder)

During Lent:



S 151b

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.

Gathering Song - ELW # 425 "Behold the Host arrayed in White"

Hymn of the Day - ELW # 779 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

Sending Song - ELW # 793 "Be Thou My Vision"

**We pray always for . . .**

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

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

Winfrida, Juliana, Hassan & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania

## Announcements

**TODAY 3/15/26** Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship with Communion - 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

**TUESDAY 3/17/26**

Piecemakers Blanket Making - All Day

Church Council - 7:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY 3/18/26**

Lenten Worship @ Hope Lutheran - 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY 3/19/26**

Lenten Luncheon – beginning @ 11:30 ish

**NEXT SUNDAY 3/22/26**

Worship – 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)***

**Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship Service Schedule.**

All services are at 7:00 p.m.

The midweek Wednesday Service theme will be the ELCA and Nebraska Synod material taken from Sundays and Seasons entitled “Conversations with Jesus; Service of Word for Lent”. We will discuss the conversations that Jesus has with others in the previous Sunday's Gospel.

The Thursday Luncheon Midweek Worship includes the worship and theme from the night before and lunch. People may begin gathering at 11:30 a.m. Worship will begin at 11:45 a.m. with lunch being served 11:47 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. The service will continue following eating of the meal. People may arrive and leave as their schedules permit.

March 18 - Wednesday Midweek at Hope “Jesus' conversation with the disciples  
and the man born blind”

March 19 - Thursday Luncheon service @ Grace gather beginning @ 11:30 a.m.

March 25 - Wednesday Midweek at Grace “Jesus' conversation with Martha”

March 26 - Thursday Luncheon service @ Grace gather beginning @ 11:30 a.m.



# Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 15, 2026

## Prayer of the Day

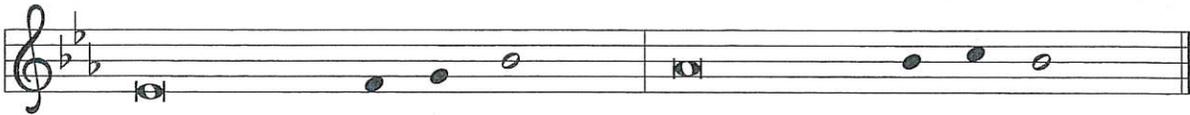
Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13 [not printed]

## Psalm

Psalm 23; tone 4



The LORD <sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>1</sup> be in want.  
<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down  
<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>1</sup> side still waters.  
<sup>3</sup>You restore my <sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways  
<sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I shall <sup>1</sup> fear no evil;

for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they <sup>1</sup> comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence <sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil,  
and my cup is <sup>1</sup> running over.  
<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me  
all the days <sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell  
in the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD forever.

## Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14 [not printed]

## Gospel

John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When

he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept

*continued*

saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

<sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

<sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

<sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

<sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that

this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

<sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

2nd Reading

COME TO THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, TO MATURITY, TO THE MEASURE OF THE FULL STATURE OF CHRIST. 14 We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

*The Old Life and the New*

17 Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. 19 They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 That is not the way you learned Christ! 21 For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. 22 You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

*Rules for the New Life*

25 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. 26 Be angry but do not sin; do

5 given you wisdom. 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, 2 and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

*Renounce Pagan Ways*

3 But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk, but instead, let there be thanksgiving. 5 Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be associated with them. 8 For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible. 14 For everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead  
and Christ will shine on you."

15 Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, 16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil. 17 So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 Do not get drunk with wine,

Ephesians  
5: 8-14

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**16** The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, seeing I have rejected **him** from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' <sup>3</sup>And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me him whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eli'ab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abin'adab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Sham-mah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." <sup>11</sup>And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes here." <sup>12</sup>And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

First  
Reading

1 Samuel  
16: 1-13