

*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**

**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.

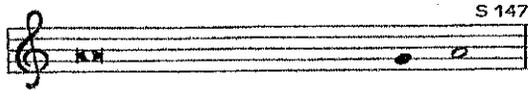
**A: Amen. Assembly sits.**

**GREETING** – (ELW p. 147)

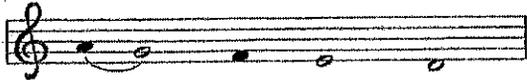
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

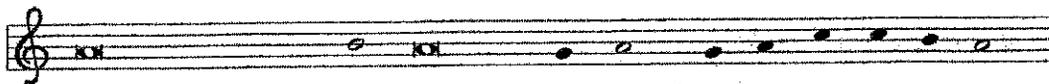
**KYRIE** - (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



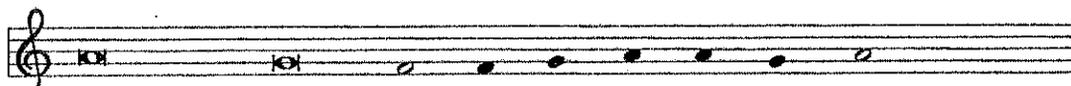
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



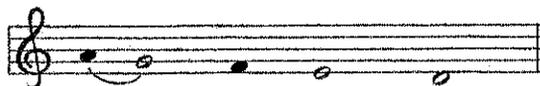
Lord, have mer - cy.



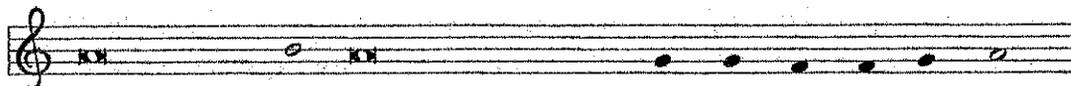
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



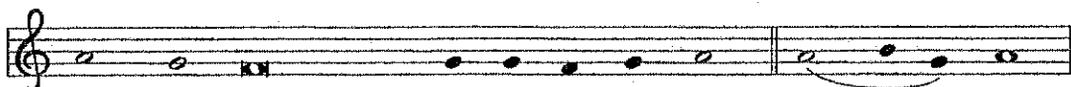
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

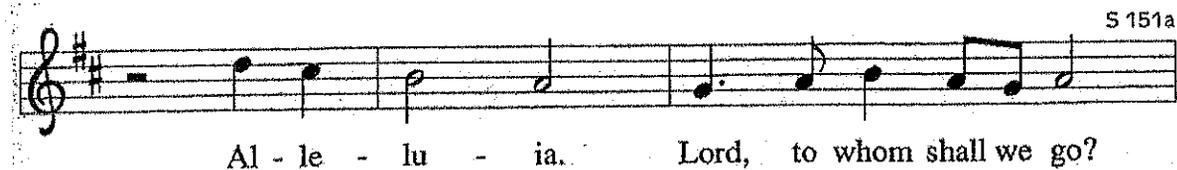
**SECOND READING** – Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

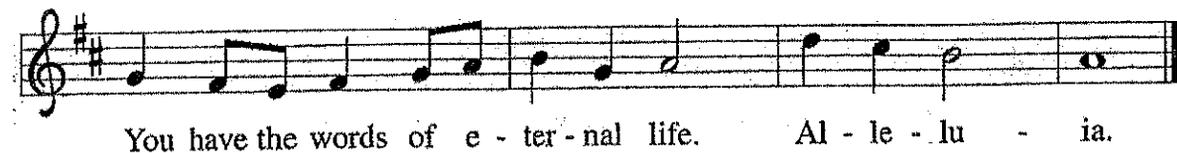
R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

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



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 handout.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**APOSTLES CREED – (ELW p. 105)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**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.

**LORD'S PRAYER** – (ELW p. 154) – *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.*

**SENDING SONG**

**POSTLUDE**

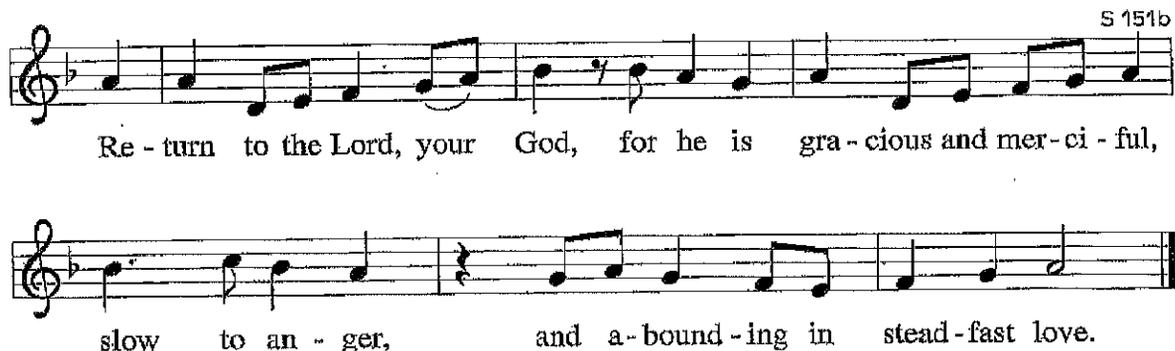
*Please join us for  
fellowship in the  
basement  
following worship 😊*

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Gospel acclamation ELW Page 151b - Return to the Lord  
(Page 6 in Blue 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 # 712 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

Hymn of the Day -

ELW # 597 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

Sending Song - ELW # 758 "You Are the Way"

**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

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting following  
Worship on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss and to vote and  
approve the installation of a new water line to Grace  
Lutheran Church.

**TODAY 3/22/26 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

**TUESDAY 3/24/26**

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

**WEDNESDAY 3/25/26**

Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.

Grace Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

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

**THURSDAY 3/26/26**

Lenten Luncheon – beginning @ 11:30 ish

**NEXT SUNDAY 3/29/26 PALM SUNDAY**

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Special Congregational Meeting following worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

If you would like to bring an Easter Lily to share with us, you can bring it at any time. Please sign up on the sheet in the SE office and label your Lily for when you come to pick it up

*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 25 - Wednesday Midweek at Grace “Jesus’ conversation with Martha”

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



# Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

## Prayer of the Day

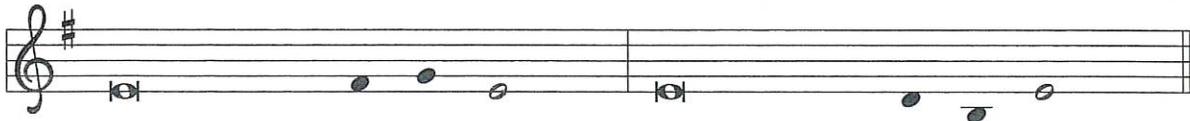
Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14 [not printed]

## Psalm

Psalm 130; tone 8



Out <sup>1</sup> of the depths

I cry to <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, <sup>1</sup>hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my <sup>1</sup> supplication.

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch <sup>1</sup> over sins,  
O LORD, <sup>1</sup> who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>Yet with you <sup>1</sup> is forgiveness,  
in order that you <sup>1</sup> may be feared.

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; <sup>1</sup> my soul waits;  
in your word <sup>1</sup> is my hope.

<sup>6</sup>My soul waits for the Lord

more than those who keep watch

<sup>1</sup> for the morning,

more than those who keep watch

<sup>1</sup> for the morning.

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD,

for with the LORD there is <sup>1</sup> steadfast love;

with the LORD

there is plen- <sup>1</sup> teous redemption.

<sup>8</sup>For the LORD shall <sup>1</sup> redeem Israel

from <sup>1</sup> all their sins.

## Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11 [not printed]

## Gospel

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble,

*continued*

because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup>She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now

Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

## The Valley of Dry Bones

**37** The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath<sup>b</sup> to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath<sup>b</sup> in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,<sup>c</sup> and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

First  
Reading  
Ezekiel  
37: 1-14

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit <sup>z</sup> of life in Christ Jesus has set you <sup>a</sup> free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, <sup>b</sup> he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>z</sup> <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit <sup>z</sup> set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>z</sup> <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit <sup>z</sup> is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, <sup>c</sup> since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit <sup>c</sup> is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ <sup>d</sup> from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through <sup>e</sup> his Spirit that dwells in you.

12 So then, brothers and sisters, <sup>f</sup> we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of

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Second  
Reading  
Romans  
8:6-11