

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Service of Holy Communion

March 30, 2025

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.

**-the congregation is invited to stand*

WELCOME TO GRACE

A warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us during this Lenten season when we journey with Jesus to the cross. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a guest card which is found in the pews. Following the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor.

INTRODUCTION

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

God gathers us in unity.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

arr. Hal Hopson

The assembly stands as able.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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.

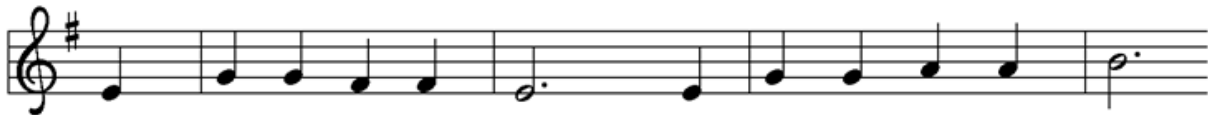
Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

Amen.

***KYRIE**

ELW page 203



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

***GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.

WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands as able.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

*GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead

and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

The assembly may stand as able.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Abide with Me

ELW#629

***NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

INSTALLATION OF ETHAN LENTZ

Presentation

The lay professional to be installed and a representative of the employing body come before the presiding minister and the assembled congregation.

A representative of the employing body addresses the presiding minister.

After prayerful deliberation,
we, of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,
have appointed Ethan Lentz
to serve in the position of Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry.

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses the one being installed.

Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

Ethan, in the presence of this assembly
will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility,
in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church and in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care,
will you seek to grow in love for those you serve,
strive for excellence in your skills,
and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform
them.

*The assembly responds: **Amen.***

The assembly stands. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, will you receive Ethan into this ministry
as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for *him*, help and honor *him* for *his* work's sake,
and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of
Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The presiding minister addresses the lay professional.

Ethan, I now declare you installed as Director of Children, Youth
& Family Ministry.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds
in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

Amen.

Prayer

*The presiding minister prays one or more of the following
prayers, as appropriate to the form of service in which the
person will serve, or another appropriate prayer.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, as you called apostles and evangelists, pastors and teachers to instruct, comfort, admonish, and care for us, so you have called Ethan. Fill *him* with wisdom and patience, with love, and with faithfulness to your word, that *he* may with gladness teach, comfort, counsel, and guide your people to maturity in Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People of God, I present to you Ethan Lentz, your Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry.

Let us welcome *him* in the name of Christ.

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The Leader prays for the church/world and all in need.

Each prayer concludes:

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

A greeting of peace is shared among the assembly.

OFFERING

We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today's offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church.

CHORAL OFFERING

Ave Verum Corpus

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Grace Chancel Choir

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

MEAL

***SETTING THE TABLE**

Come to the Table

ELW#481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

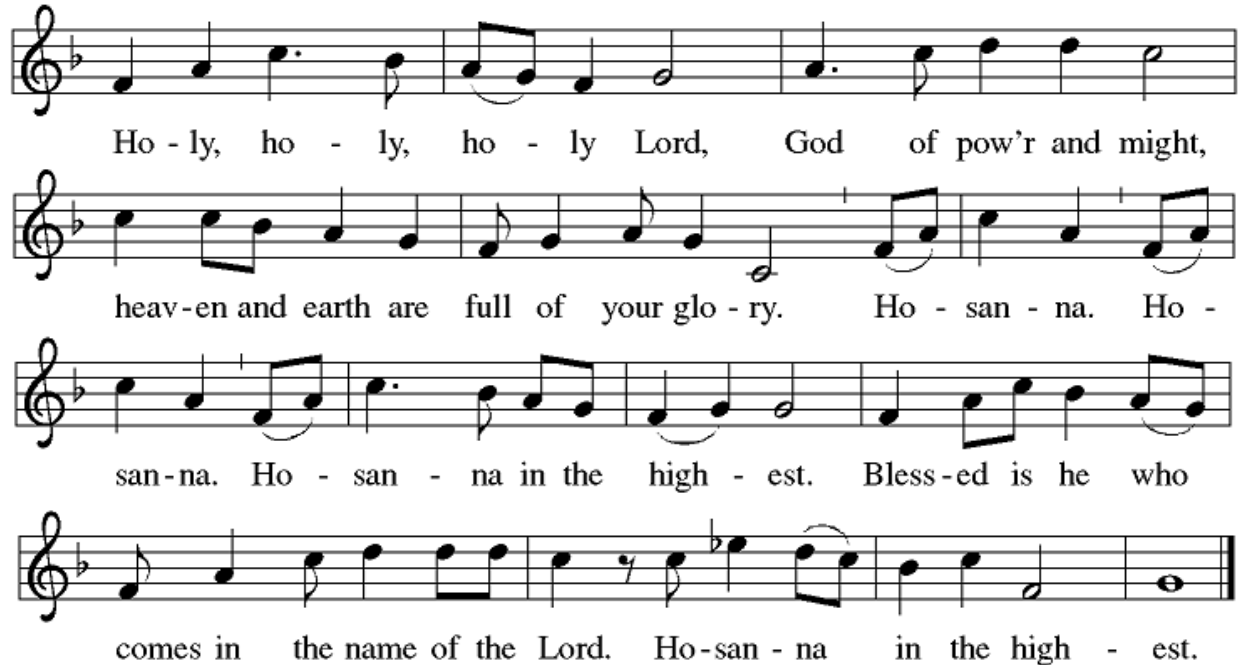
Praise and thanksgiving belong to you, God of every blessing, for you shaped all creation to grow into your abundant and eternal harvest.

You called a holy people to share life with you, and when they were captive in Egypt, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm you brought them out of oppression, through the temptations of the wilderness, into a land flowing with milk and honey.

In time, your Son came among us, facing wilderness and temptation and hunger to bring us out of bondage to sin and to taste and see that you, the Lord, are good. And so we thank you with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven as we join the unending hymn;

***SANCTUS**

ELW page 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

God of mercy, you gave your people manna day by day during their time of testing; and because no one can live by bread alone, you gave Jesus to be our bread from heaven. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church to live as a sign of the way you transform this manna into mercy for all. With your Spirit, bless this bread and this cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

In the night in which our Lord was betrayed, he took bread, broke it, gave thanks, and gave it to all saying; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to all saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Faithful God, whose Son did not escape suffering and death but accepted and finally overcame them, bring your disciples by the way of his cross to the joy of Easter. Strengthen your church to resist evil of every kind and turn from sin. With your mighty hand and outstretched arm, uphold those enduring trials and any who know their very life is at stake. Be with your children who are heavy laden, and all who labor beneath the misuse of power by another. Amid temptations to be successful, shape your children first to be faithful to your kingdom, until the day when in your resurrected glory there is one life, one sharing, one holy communion among all saints with you to whom all glory belongs forever, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***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.

***INVITATION**

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.
Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

Those communing in their seats and at home are led through each element.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Please join in singing:

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.

***BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world **SENDING**

***BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW#774

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Showalter

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister The Rev. Chad Butz
Assisting Minister.....Donna Enrico
Lector..... Don Barlup
Acolyte Claire Pankake
Communion AssistantsSusan Dickinson, George B. Osswald
Director of Music..... Kristopher Hartman
Organist..... Emily Hartman

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Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Our Story

Matthew 25:35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”*

The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God’s love and our faith

Grace Church Staff

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To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; office@gracecamphill.org
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011**