

Fifth Sunday in Lent



March 21, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

“We share God’s love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world.”

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C: **Amen**

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Fountain of living water,

C: **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P: Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, our sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “Now the Green Blade Rises”

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GREETING

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

P: **And also with you.**

KYRIE *Unison*

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r, create in us new hearts!**

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HYMN OF PRAISE *Unison*

**O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.**

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Unison*

**O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live 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.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the

judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY “As the Grains of Wheat”

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APOSTLES’ CREED

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 power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

P: Let us pray...Faithful God,

C: **you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with
bread from heaven. Accompany us in this journey, that we may pass over
from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: **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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Change My Heart, O God”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYERS

Scott Lancaster, Betty Dulebohn, Paul Denstaedt, Gerald Lancaster, Charlotte Werth, Hannelore Duenkel & Family (Charlotte Werth's niece), Dorothy Hansen, Don, Verna & Tammy Furze, Larry Nelson, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Joanne Nicholls, Deb Nitchman's Family, Diane Prevost, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Allison, Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod staff, Amanda Lema (Betty Dulebohn's granddaughter), Lyn Marshall, Joanne Coughlin, Sylvia Rouech, Jimmy Lappan, Herb Schiller, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Ann McMullen, Genie Diamond, Ann, Laura Bleau, Sharon Anderson, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, and Cody Gustin.

Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer concerns received by the church office by Tuesday each week will be included in the coming weekends bulletin. Please do have the person's permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than our congregation will know about it.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In observance of our covenant with the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, we pray each week for a specific ministry of one of the 5 LARCC parishes. This weekend we pray for the Children's Program at First Congregational UCC. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: Immanuel Lutheran Church/Big Rapids, Rev. John Ferra.

RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP ON APRIL 10 & 11

Council, at its meeting this past Tuesday, made the decision to return to in-person worship on Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11, if the current conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic remain the same or improve. The same public health protocols that were utilized in the Fall will be in place: masking, social distancing in the seating, no congregational singing, distancing on entering and leaving the sanctuary, no congregating in the office lobby before or after worship and as low touch environment as we can achieve. More information will be sent out as we approach these dates.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES REMAIN SUSPENDED

VIEW SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM ONLINE

Sunday morning worship service will be livestreamed. The worship will be conducted with a very limited number of worship leaders in the sanctuary and can be viewed as it is happening. Go to www.gracelutheran-alpena.org for the link to the YouTube livestream. A recording of the service will be available for viewing anytime afterwards.

LENTEN SERIES

This year Grace Lutheran will be doing a Lenten Series on Facebook live. Tune in on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM for a time of scripture, prayer and meditation. Join us at our Facebook page to participate. You can link to our Facebook page from our website.

COMMUNION IN THE HOME FOR HOLY WEEK - *DRIVE THRU PICKUP*

Packages for Home communion will be distributed by Pastor Tom from the front drive of the church on **Wednesday March 31 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm** and **Maundy Thursday April 1 from 11 - 1:30 pm**. Pastor Tom will bring the package out to you in your car. There will be a short reading for use as you take communion. The communion itself is individually sealed cups with the wafer sealed on top of that. **Please call the office, 354.2640, if you would like a package made up for you and your family, the number of people who will be together and which time you wish to pick it up.** (If you cannot make those times, please let us know so we can arrange another time.)

EASTER FLOWERS

Contributions toward Easter flowers in memory/honor of someone or in thanksgiving may be sent to the church office. We are not purchasing individual plants this year. ***Please include with your donation the dedication information that you would like listed in the bulletin. Bulletin information needs to be received in the church office by March 29th.***

WATCHING GRACE'S WORSHIP ON THE INTERNET

Several people have mentioned that using their smart TVs that are connected to the internet for viewing the worship services have offered them the bigger picture of course and as importantly for some, better sound. Hope you are enjoying the worship livestreamed. Any questions or comments let Pastor Tom know.

ENJOYING YOUR CARDS

Betty Dulebohn is still at Medilodge recovering from pneumonia and will probably be there until the end of March. She is not able to have visitors due to COVID. She is enjoying your cards very much. If you would like to send a card to cheer her up, here is her address:

Betty Dulebohn
Room E8, Bed 2
MediLodge of Alpena
301 Long Rapids Rd.
Alpena, MI 49707

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please call (354-2640) or email (officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org) the Church Office.

CHRIST IN OUR HOMES DEVOTIONAL FOR APRIL-JUNE

Christ in Our Homes Devotional for April-June is available in the Office Lobby. Pick one up during office hours of Tuesday - Thursday 8 am to noon or call the office and we will mail one to you.

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE FOR MARCH

The new Living Lutheran from the ELCA for March is also available in the Office Lobby. Several back issues are there too.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office is open Tuesday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. - noon. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the building. Please log in on the sheets as you enter the Office Lobby. Please also log out as you exit the building, noting the areas of the building that you were in.

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,489.00
Weekly giving - March 14	5,741.00

We received:

19 envelopes, 21 Simply Giving recurring payments and
1 Give+ payment made from our website, 1 Thrivent Choice donation



**Anniversaries
of
Baptism**



March 3
Arnold Jahnke

March 23
Robert Greene

March 5
Amy Townsend

March 24
Mark Suszek

March 11
Hadleigh Suszek

March 26
John Kuligowski

March 13
Sharlene Kennedy

March 27
Eleanor Coddington

March 17
Patricia Schultz
Adam Urlaub
Brody Yuchasz

March 28
Allison Urlaub

March 29
Stephanie Ihnat

March 19
Joel Suszek



Birthdays



March 1
Gene Domrase
Anna Greene

March 17
Joan Brennan
Patrick Daly

March 2
Alisha Poirier

March 18
Kayla Bertrand
Vicki Cripps

March 3
Mark Suszek

March 19
Bonnie Cross
Kelly Poirier
Tyler Suszek

March 4
Alexis Crittenden

March 6
Tiffany LaFave
Patrick McCourt

March 21
Anna Lewis

March 8
Dorene Schultz

March 22
Gerald Lancaster
Karen Spigelmyre
Erica Wilson

March 9
Matthew Gillard

March 23
Brent Barrow

March 10
Lois Westergard

March 24
Tracie Granata

March 11
Norm Timm

March 25
Kristin Rich
Sheri Smith

March 12
Donice Ziberna

March 29
Jeanette Chroninger

March 14
Barbara Mudge

March 30
Charles Snyder

March 15
Kathy Piontkowski

March 31
Emma Barber

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH **119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707**
Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
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