

Third Sunday in Lent



March 7, 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 “There in God’s Garden”

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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*

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through 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

Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19

The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the
world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it
again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion
over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in
your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

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

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Canticle of the Turning"

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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 "Lift High the Cross"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY MARCH 7TH

Council is announcing the Annual Meeting of the congregation for this Sunday, March 7th at 11 am. The meeting will be conducted online with Zoom meeting. You can join in the meeting with a video and audio link on a computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone. It is also available to participate by phoning in with capability to hear and speak at the meeting. (It is a long distance call for the connection.) *Please contact the office to receive the Zoom connection information. That information will be sent out the days before March 7 to all requesting.*

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, Bob Mackie, 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 all who work on ecumenical projects/interfaith dialogue at St. Paul Lutheran Church. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partners: Trinity Lutheran Church/Battle Creek, Rev. Kjersten Sullivan and the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Staff, Bishop Craig Satterlee.

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.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES REMAIN SUSPENDED

Along with most of our ecumenical partners in Alpena, our in-person worship services remain suspended for the time being.

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.

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.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY DONATION

Thanks to Taylor (Denstaedt) Hayward! Our Little Food Pantry received a \$500 donation from mBank where Taylor now works.

THANK YOU

We are counting our blessings at Grace. The Little Food Pantry has had many recent donations. We want to say thank you for food, monetary and personal products that have been given. If you would like to donate, the following products are getting low in quantity: paper towels and toilet paper, feminine products, small shampoo and small soaps. We are filling the pantry almost daily and appreciate help. Blessings.— Little Food Pantry Coordinators

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

Christ in Our Homes Devotional for January - March are 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 - February 28 | 3,870.00 |

We received:

14 envelopes, 3 Simply Giving recurring payments and
1 Give+ payment made from our website



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 21
Anna Lewis

March 6
Tiffany LaFave
Patrick McCourt

March 22
Gerald Lancaster
Karen Spigelmyre
Erica Wilson

March 8
Dorene Schultz

March 23
Brent Barrow

March 9
Matthew Gillard

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.
Phone: Office 354-2640 Pastor's Home 356-8729 Pastor's Cell Phone 916-8759
Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth ~ Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org
E-mail: pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org



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