

Second Sunday in Lent



February 28, 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 “O God, My Faithful God”

Text: Johann Heermann, tr. Catherine Winkworth; Music: Ahasuerus Fritsch. This selection is in the public domain..

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, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” ¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:23-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter’s response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

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

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

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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 "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

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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 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 via email to receive the Zoom connection information. That information will be sent out the days before March 7 to all requesting.*

ZOOM PRACTICE SESSIONS

For anyone wishes to practice using the Zoom meeting software, there will be 2 practice sessions. On Tuesday, March 2nd at 7 pm and Thursday March 4th at 4 pm. Contact the office for the information to connect to the practice sessions. For any questions on using the software on your device or phone, contact Pastor Tom.

PRAYERS

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. We also remember the family of Jan Charter, whose brother-in-law passed away.

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 Prayer Group at Trinity Episcopal Church. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: St. Peter Lutheran Church/Battle Creek, Rev. Jennifer Michael.

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.

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.

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 21 | 3,067.26 |

We received:

22 envelopes, 13 Simply Giving recurring payments and
2 Give+ payments 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 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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