

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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First Sunday in Lent



Welcome & Announcements

Prelude.....Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn **Great is Thy Faithfulness**..... **TCH 139**
- * The Kyrie page 57
- * The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

EQUIP

The First Lesson..... Genesis 22:1-18

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 25:1-10..... Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson..... James 1:12-18

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

- * The Lenten Verse page 63
- * The Holy Gospel Mark 1:9-15
- Children's Sermon Pastor East
- The Message..... "*In the Wilderness*" Pastor East
- Hymn of the Day **Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed** **LBW 98**
- * Nicene Creed..... page 64
- * The Prayers and the Peace..... page 65

GIVE

The Offering The People of God

- * The Offertory and Prayer pages 66, 67

RECEIVE

- * The Great Thanksgiving..... page 68
- * The Eucharistic Prayer & The Lord's Prayer pages 69, 71
- * **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**
- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Lord, now you let your servant*..... page 73
- * Post-Communion Prayer page 74
- * The Benediction page 74

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn **Amazing Grace**..... **LBW 448**
- * The Dismissal: P: Go in Peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

* = Stand

A reminder that during the season of Lent there is no Hymn of Praise, the Psalm tone is changed, after the Second Lesson the Lenten verse (p. 63) will be sung, and the Post-Communion Canticle is on page 73 (Lord, now you let your servant...)

Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy

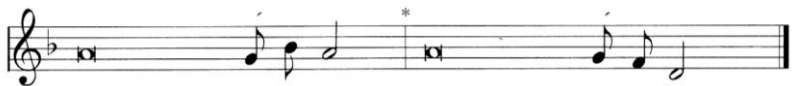
WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. The Prayer Teams will be praying with you and for your concerns during the coming week as well. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact the Church Office this week.

THIS WEEK'S THEME: In this world and in this earthly life, we will continually have to battle temptations. Temptations from Satan are for the purpose of leading us to sin, which means leading us away from God and God's commandments, and toward death – earthly and spiritual. Such a time is a true wilderness time. But God does not desire death for us; he has made a way to remove our sins and strengthen us to resist temptations. That's the Gospel of Jesus, which refreshes the wilderness with life!

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 22:1-18

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the

knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."



PSALM 25:1-10

- ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my / trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph / over me.
- ²**Let none who look to you be / put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed / in their schemes.**
- ³Show me your / ways, O LORD, *
and teach / me your paths.
- ⁴**Lead me in your / truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all / the day long.**
- ⁵Remember, O LORD, your compas- / sion and love, *
for they are from / everlasting.
- ⁶**Remember not the sins of my youth and / my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your good- / ness,
O LORD.**
- ⁷Gracious and upright / is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners / in his way.
- ⁸**He guides the humble in / doing right *
and teaches his way / to the lowly.**
- ⁹All the paths of the LORD are / love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his / testimonies.
- ¹⁰**For your name's / sake, O LORD, *
forgive my sin, for / it is great.**

SECOND LESSON: James 1:12-18

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-38. Readings are based on the recommended use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the North American Lutheran Church and Lectionary of Sola Publishing. Used by Permission.

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Lula Ingle, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi Pisko, Michael Pisko, Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Richard & Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Carolyn & Scott Whisnant.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village),

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Sheila Cook, Harold Crouse, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Brian Fruits, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, J.C., Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Ryan McMullen, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Larry Milsaps, Katie Patton, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and

Amber, Cozel Spencer, Shanie Spencer, Steven, Sue, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR BRACK EAST who is leading worship this morning!

THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD will hold its regular monthly meeting **tomorrow, February 19, at 6:00 p.m.** All Board Members are urged to attend.

THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON will be held on **Wednesday, February 21 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.** This is a time for any adults from Grace and the community to come together and enjoy fellowship, good food and bingo! Please give Betty Wilfong a call at (828) 461-6604 and let her know if you plan to attend.

IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER LILIES!

Please:

- (1) fill out the yellow form in your bulletin,
- (2) place it and your check or cash inside the special envelope,
- (3) fill out the front of the special envelope, and
- (4) put it in the offering plate.

The cost is **\$12.00 per plant**. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church, For: Lily. Please have all orders in by **Sunday, March 17th**, so that we may properly acknowledge the dedications. (Note: On the Sunday you place your lily order, you do not need to use your regular numbered envelope. However, it is greatly appreciated when you use them on the other Sundays of the year.)

THE SEASON OF LENT is the 40-day period from Ash Wednesday to Easter (excluding Sundays) which is a period of preparation, meditation and atonement. According to the Lutheran Manual on the Liturgy, flowers are not to be used to decorate the altar or chancel during the season of Lent. Focus on the altar cross during the season of Lent and remember what Christ did for you.

THE NALC LENTEN DEVOTIONAL is available online at www.thenalc.org. A few copies are available in the Narthex.

THE ECCCM FOOD ASK for the month of February is **macaroni, pasta and canned spaghetti sauce**. **THANK YOU** to the disciples at Grace for the 66 pounds of food that were donated and delivered to ECCCM on January 22nd. Thank you for helping to keep the food pantry stocked.

*“Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.”*

Psalm 25:3

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

18 – Meredith Martin

25 – Carolyn Whisnant

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A - Worship Celebration

Monday:

6:00P – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting

Wednesday:

12:00P – Grace Prayer Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

Next Sunday:

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A - Worship Celebration

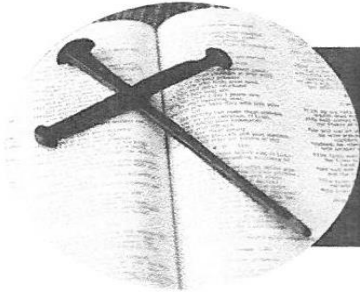
The Ministers.....The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist..... Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Pam Tallent
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth LeaderStormy Shull
LectorHerb Travis
Communion Assistants..... Sheila Drum, Cindy Bivens, Libby Travis
Ushers Jack Wilfong and James Hall
Altar Preparation..... Herb and Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers and Alan Shull
Custodian.....Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

The First Sunday in Lent | February 18, 2024



MATTHEW 4:1-11

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Vs. 4

We certainly shall live from the words that come from the mouth of God. Those words are specifically Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God Incarnate. As the Word of God, Jesus is our life... your life and my life. While in the wilderness, Jesus faced the devil openly. During the rest of his days, Jesus faced the devil, the tempter, less openly and through proxies such as the demons and unclean spirits. As Jesus has the victory over the devil in these three temptations so too does Jesus have victory over the tempter—Satan and his lies.

The great temptation facing Jesus was that of power. God revealed to the Apostle Paul that God's power was made perfect in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). Satan tempted Jesus to use his power to come down from the cross, smite his foes, and save himself. Jesus, however, endured the cross and its shame... becoming, not only a human weakling but also the weakest of gods. In that weakness, God's power was perfected and the victory over Satan won.

So now, you. The strength of your will power does not determine your success at resisting temptation... at resisting the lies of the devil... at refusing Satan's blandishments. Instead, your success is had in the victory of Jesus, his victory

over sin, death, and the power of the devil. You do not go out into the wilderness to do battle against the tempter's power. No! You receive the victory of Jesus Christ handed over to you from the font, the pulpit, and the altar. You take that victory out into your own personal wilderness, whatever circumstances the world has delivered you into. The whole armor of God (Eph 6:10-20) girds you to standfast... to standfast in the victory Christ has already won! Christ, and Christ alone, is the Word of God by which you live. Just so, your preacher delivers you into the victory of Jesus Christ. In that victory you already have righteousness and truth... indeed, all the armor. Standfast and live!

Table Talk: Explore the distinction between doing battle and enjoying Christ's victory.

Pray: Heavenly Father hold me fast in the victory of Jesus Christ that I might have life from the Word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Amen



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