

# Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



# GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



*Christ-Centered*

*Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded*

*Congregationally-Focused*

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# Second Sunday in Lent



Welcome & Announcements

Prelude.....Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- \* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness ..... page 56

## PRAISE

- \* Opening Hymn ..... **Beneath the Cross of Jesus** ..... **LBW 107**
- \* The Kyrie ..... page 57
- \* The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

## EQUIP

The First Lesson.....Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16

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

The Psalm 22:23-31..... Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson.....Romans 5:1-11

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

- \* The Lenten Verse ..... page 63
- \* The Holy Gospel ..... Mark 8:27-38
- Children's Sermon ..... Pastor Coble
- The Message..... "Be Blameless" ..... Pastor Coble
- Hymn of the Day ..... **The Longer I Serve Him** ..... **TCH 520**
- \* The Apostles' Creed ..... page 65
- \* 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 ..... **Blessed Assurance**..... **WOV 699**
- \* 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

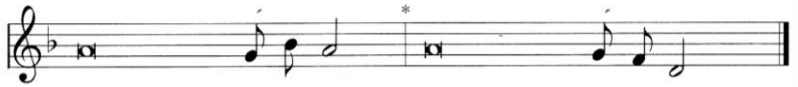
**WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP** at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing 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 the First Lesson today, we will hear the command, "Be blameless." Are you like me and when you hear that command you also hear the theme to Mission Impossible playing in the background? I know I'm far from blameless and I know by Scripture that you are too. But in this Lenten season, we will be reminded that we have a Savior and knowing His love, we will be challenged to live a blameless life before God.

**FIRST LESSON: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

When 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, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And I 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.

<sup>15</sup>And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."



## PSALM 22:23-31

<sup>23</sup>Praise the LORD, / you that fear him;\*

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's / line, give glory.

<sup>24</sup>**For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his / face from them;\***

**but when they cry to / him he hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>My praise is of him in the / great assembly;\*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who / worship him.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the / LORD shall praise him:\***

**"May your heart / live forever!"**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn / to the LORD,\*

and all the families of the nations shall / bow before him.

<sup>28</sup>**For kingship belongs / to the LORD;\***

**he rules / over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow / down in worship;\*

all who go down to the dust / fall before him.

<sup>30</sup>**My soul shall live for him; my descen- / dants shall serve him;\***

**they shall be known as the / LORD's forever.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall come and make known to a people / yet unborn\*

the saving deeds that / he has done.

## SECOND LESSON: Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person

one would dare even to die—<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.<sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.<sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

<sup>27</sup> And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”<sup>28</sup> And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.”<sup>29</sup> And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.”<sup>30</sup> And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.<sup>31</sup> And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup> And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.<sup>33</sup> But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”<sup>34</sup> And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.<sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.<sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 2:13-22(23-25). 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.

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**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.

## **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, Don & Nicky Jarrett, 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, John and Terry Barnett, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Sheila Cook, Harold Crouse, Duckworth Family, 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, April Pilkenton, 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 GARY COBLE** who is leading worship this morning!

**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 17<sup>th</sup>**, 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.)

**ECCCM** accepts all food donations to feed the hungry! **THANK YOU** to the disciples at Grace for the 61 pounds of food that were donated and delivered to ECCCM on February 13, 2024. Thank you for helping to keep the food pantry stocked.

**MARCH NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE TODAY.** You can help distribute them by taking one to a friend or relative. Those not picked up will be mailed next week.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be held on **Sunday, June 9 through Thursday, June 13** at Plateau United Methodist in Plateau. We will be partnering with Zion, Sardis and Plateau. The theme this year is “Campfire Light.” Please contact Stormy Shull for details.

*“All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.”*

Psalm 22:27

**HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:**

25 – Carolyn Whisnant

26 – Crystal Smith

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Today:**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A - Worship Celebration

**Next Sunday:**

**THIRD 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 Leader .....Stormy Shull  
Lector .....Herb 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



# TableTalk II

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

The Second Sunday in Lent | February 25, 2024



## MATTHEW 15:21-28

*"...great is your faith! Be it done for you  
as you desire." Vs. 28*

Now there's a reason to believe! Jesus rewards the greatness of the Canaanite woman's faith with the fulfillment of her desire. Surely, fulfillment of our desire provides more than sufficient motivation for us humans to grow our faith to greatness. The reality, though, as the disciples had revealed to them when they prayed to the Lord, "Increase our faith..." their faith proved non-existent... not even as much as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds. Jesus announces that even that tiniest amount of faith could uproot mulberry bushes and cast them in the sea (Lk. 17:5-6). Having our faith, or lack thereof, revealed to us takes divine intervention.

Since the Fall in Eden's Garden, our desires fail us. That original sin has corrupted the affections of our hearts to the point that we can no longer know them, let alone trust them. Luther teaches this as he gives us the explanation to the Lord's Prayer in his Small Catechism. Luther understood that the Lord's Prayer makes theologians of the cross out of us, especially the first three petitions which expose our bondage to our sinful self, the world, and the devil. In the first petition, "Hallowed be thy name," we pray against the "hallowing" or honoring or respecting of our name and for God to cause his name to be

honored. In the second petition, "Thy kingdom come," we are praying against the elevation of all earthly kingdoms and institutions—even against the institution we know as church—so that God will bring in his kingdom, hidden, mysterious, and growing. In the third petition, "Thy will be done," we are praying against our wills which desire to have what we desire and call it God's will rather than suffering God's will to be done upon us. Faith is not something for us to grow or increase. The Holy Spirit gives faith, or it does not. You have faith in its entirety... its wholeness... its greatness... or you do not. This sharp distinction marks the divide between a faith you possess as a human virtue and the faith which possesses you as a gift from God.

**Table Talk:** Discuss the humility of having your faith revealed to you.

**Pray:** Heavenly Father grant me a faith that possesses me. Amen



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