

# Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



# GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



North American Lutheran Church

*Christ-Centered*

*Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded*

*Congregationally-Focused*

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# Third Sunday in Lent



Welcome & Announcements

Prelude.....Please Observe Silence For Meditation

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

## PRAISE

- \* Opening Hymn ..... **Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer** ..... **LBW 343**
- \* The Kyrie ..... page 57
- \* The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

## EQUIP

The First Lesson..... Exodus 20:1-17

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

The Psalm 19 ..... Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson ..... 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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

- \* The Lenten Verse ..... page 63
- \* The Holy Gospel ..... John 2:13-25
- Children's Sermon ..... Pastor East
- The Message..... "Do Christians Need the Law?" ..... Pastor East
- Hymn of the Day ..... **Near the Cross** ..... **TCH 319**
- \* The 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 ..... **My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**..... **LBW 294**
- \* 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, 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:** We believe we are saved by God's grace and not by our works, so do we really need the law that God gave in the Old Testament before Jesus came? Yes we do! Jesus did not abandon the Ten Commandments. Actually, He summarized them and told us to keep them because he knew that all humans were born sinful and needed guidance in life regarding how to live as God intended. He also knew we would sometimes fail and would need God's forgiveness, which God would give to those who trust Jesus.

### **FIRST LESSON: Exodus 20:1-17**

And God spoke all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup>"You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. <sup>8</sup>"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. <sup>12</sup>"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>"You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>"You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>"You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

## PSALM 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

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

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands,  
and their message to the ends of the world.**

<sup>5</sup>In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion  
to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It 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.**

<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

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

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

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

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

<sup>12</sup>**Who can tell how often he offends?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above 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.

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

## SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup> Where 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? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. <sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 2:13-25**

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup> And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup> So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> When therefore 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. <sup>23</sup> Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people <sup>25</sup> and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-9; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21. 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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**PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR BRACK EAST** who is leading worship this morning!

## **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, Doris Duckworth, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, J.C., Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, 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.)

**CALL COMMITTEE MEETING** is scheduled for **tomorrow, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. downstairs** to conduct a Zoom meeting with Pastor Shelly Schultz, NALC Call Process Coordinator.

**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.)

**THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be held on **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am** at Four Peas in a Pod on Highway 70 in Conover. Please come and enjoy the great food and fellowship. Bring a friend!

**REMEMBER! – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** starts next Sunday. Be sure to set your clock 1 hour forward before going to bed on Saturday night.

**LULA INGLE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND HER THANKS AND APPRECIATION** for the cards, phone calls and food she received from the disciples of Grace while she was recovering from hip surgery.

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

Psalm 19:14

**HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:**

- 4 – Philip Leatherman; Jacob Jarrett
- 5 – Christine Norman
- 8 – James Norman

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

- Today:** **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
  - 9:30A – Sunday School
  - 10:30A - Worship Celebration
- Monday:** 6:45P – Call Committee Zoom Meeting
- Saturday:** 9:00A – Grace Prayer Breakfast at Four Peas
- Next Sunday:** **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
  - Daylight Savings Time Begins**
  - 9:30A – Sunday School
  - 10:30A - Worship Celebration

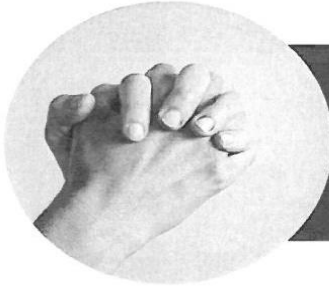
The Ministers..... The People of Grace Lutheran Church  
Pastor .....  
Organist..... Sandi Tallant  
Administrative Assistant ..... Pam Tallent  
Leadership Board President ..... Tim Eckard  
Youth Leader ..... Stormy Shull  
Lector ..... Todd Childers  
Communion Assistants..... Rick and Cindy Bivens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



# Table Talk II

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

The Third Sunday in Lent | March 3, 2024



## LUKE 11:14-28

*Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.” Vs. 23*

No middle ground. In Jesus' ancient Mediterranean society, neutrality was not permitted. One had to be for or to be against... with Jesus or against Jesus... either "gathering" or "scattering" (vs. 23). Jesus has become suspect. He does not speak and act as a carpenter's son, a lowly profession at best. He does not speak and act as a product of Nazareth, suspect city of origin. Because he acts so out of context with his origins, he is accused of receiving power from Beelzebul (vs. 15). Others demand a sign from him that would ratify his heavenly origins or authority (vs. 16). Those who bring such accusations and demands against Jesus attempt to tag him with "deviant labeling." That is, Jesus's words and actions run counter to his lowly origins and that means they deviate from the expectations of the cultural milieu. Jesus, in his words and his actions, demonstrates he is not part of the "in-group." Instead, his counter-cultural message and his acts of authority prove that he does indeed "deviate" from the humility of his cultural origins.

Jesus pushes back against the deviant labeling with his rhetorical ripostes (vs. 17-26). In response, a woman from the crowd speaks,

perhaps echoing the sentiments of many, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed" (vs. 27). Her words give voice to the support Jesus has among the many in the crowd who are not threatened by him but rather heartened by him in his words and his actions. Jesus, while accepting the support displayed by the woman, presents a life that lies outside of the deviant labeling required for in-group/out-group distinctions. Jesus speaks of a life given by the Word of God... a Word that comes from outside of oneself and is authoritative in itself without the need for any additional authority such as social status or the honor provided by exalted origins (vs. 28).

**Table Talk:** Discuss "deviant labeling," how it is used today, and how the Word of God delivers a life outside of such labels.

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, hold me in your Word and give me its life. Amen



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