

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



# GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



*Christ-Centered*

*Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded*

*Congregationally-Focused*

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# Fifth 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..... Jeremiah 31:31-34

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

The Psalm 119:9-16..... Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson ..... Hebrews 5:1-10

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

- \* The Lenten Verse ..... page 63
- \* The Holy Gospel ..... Mark 10:32-45
- Children's Sermon ..... Pastor Coble
- The Message..... "*When God Forgets*" ..... Pastor Coble
- Hymn of the Day ..... **Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed** ..... **LBW 98**
- \* 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 ..... **Go, My Children, With My Blessing** ..... **WOV 721**
- \* 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:** Often forgetting things is bad. When I'm running late to get somewhere and I forget where I left my keys, that is not good. But today we are going to rejoice over God forgetting. It is in the First Lesson, and there we read: "For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Rejoice! We have the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it <sup>u</sup>on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

## **PSALM 119:9-16**

<sup>9</sup>How shall a young man cleanse his way?

By keeping to your words.

<sup>10</sup>**With my whole heart I seek you;  
let me not stray from your commandments.**

<sup>11</sup>I treasure your promise in my heart,  
that I may not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup>**Blessed are you, O LORD;  
instruct me in your statutes.**

<sup>13</sup>With my lips will I recite  
all the judgments of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup>**I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees  
than in all manner of riches.**

<sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your commandments  
and give attention to your ways.

<sup>16</sup>**My delight is in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 5:1-10**

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup>He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. <sup>3</sup>Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. <sup>4</sup>And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. <sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." <sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup>And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:32-45**

<sup>32</sup> And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, <sup>33</sup> saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. <sup>34</sup> And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise." <sup>35</sup> And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." <sup>36</sup> And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." <sup>38</sup> Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" <sup>39</sup> And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." <sup>41</sup> And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. <sup>42</sup> And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 118:19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47. 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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### **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, Gary Leatherman, 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, Family of Sheila Cook, Harold Crouse, Dennis D’Alessino, Doris Duckworth, Wayne and Joyce Eckard, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, Michelle Kirkland, Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Family of Gerald Leonhardt, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Katie Patton, April Pilkenton, Angela Sanford, Melinda Smith, 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!

**TODAY IS THE DEADLINE 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 today** so that we may properly acknowledge the dedications.

**THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD** will hold its regular monthly meeting **tomorrow, March 18, at 6:00 p.m.** All Board Members are urged to attend!

**THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON** will be held on **Wednesday, March 20 at noon in the Fellowship Hall**. This is a time for any adults from Grace and the community to come together and enjoy fellowship and good food! Please give Betty Wilfong a call at (828) 461-6604 and let her know if you plan to attend.

**ECCCM HAS A NEW NAME – ASHURE MINISTRY!** This change does not affect the types of programs and services being offered, and the people of Catawba County may continue to apply for food and crisis assistance. Ashure appreciates the continued generosity of food donations from the disciples of Grace.

**JOB OPENING** - Grace is now accepting applications for the part-time secretary/administrative assistant position. For details, see a Board Member.

**TODAY IS ST. PATRICK’S DAY!** *“May the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us. May the word of God direct us.”* (Saint Patrick)

*“With my whole heart I seek you;  
let me not stray from your commandments.”*

Psalm 119:10

**HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO**

18 – Christy Adams

22 – Malinda Leatherman

24 – Belinda Wilfong; Katie Whalen

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Today:**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**St. Patrick’s Day/Deadline to Order Lilies**

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A - Worship Celebration

**Monday:**

6:00P – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting

**Wednesday:**

Noon – Grace Prayer Luncheon (FH)

**Next Sunday:**

**PALM SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**

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 Fifth Sunday in Lent | March 17, 2024



## JOHN 8:(42-45) 46-59

*"If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you..." Vs. 55*

Jesus and the Jews conflict. When the evangelist John uses the term "the Jews," he refers to the religious and political elite, people like the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Sanhedrin, the scribes, etc. "The Jews" for John is a catch-all term for those wielding power. Jesus conflicts with those in power. Jesus accuses the Jews of not loving him (vs. 42) ... of being unable to understand what he says (vs. 43) ... of being unable to bear the hearing of his word (vs. 43) ... Jesus names them as sons of the devil, believing lies rather than the truth of Jesus' words (vs. 45). Jesus continues by alleging that they are not of God (vs. 48), not honoring him (vs. 49), not keeping his word (vs. 51), and not knowing God (vs. 55).

All through the exchange, the Jews continue their pressure on Jesus. They call him a Samaritan—that is, one of mixed blood (vs. 48). They accuse him of being demon-possessed (vs. 48 & 52). They challenge his claim to knowing Abraham (vs. 57). Jesus so provoked the Jews that they desired to stone him (vs. 59). Jesus, however, had other plans, hiding himself, and disappearing from the Temple.

While we, as contemporary 21st century religious folk, may not number ourselves among

those elites of ancient times, we are much like them in the power we wield (or think we wield) over our lives and the lives of others. Jesus comes to stand against us and the power we wield... the power to decide who's right and who's wrong... the power to decide who's in and who's out... the power (supposedly) to decide whether we will believe in Jesus... accept his words... or give glory to his Father. Jesus comes confronting us with our sin. He confronts us with our misuse of power. His confrontation exposes us. He provokes us. By that provocation, we are revealed, numbered among those who would stone Jesus. It's as if the more power we wield, the less able we are to hear Jesus' words. After all, God himself declares that his power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

**Table Talk:** Discuss wielding power and Jesus' confrontation with it.

**Pray:** Heavenly Father keep me in the weakness of God's grace. Amen



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