

First Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025 10:30 AM



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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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. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact Pastor Doug (980) 234-8848.

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

PRELUDE *Please observe silence for meditation and prayer.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **BRIEF ORDER OF CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P Blessed be the name of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Heavenly Father, merciful and holy, in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength and renew us in the power of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Sisters and brothers, bear with one another in love, maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them in the light of Christ.(2 Corinthians 13:11) Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another trusting in the grace, mercy and forgiveness of Christ our Lord.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C We confess that we have not led a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our

neighbors as ourselves. We have not acted according to you will. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us and forgive us according to the riches of your grace. In Christ make us holy and blameless before you in love, so that we might live to the praise of your glory. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

***GATHERING HYMN** “Gather Us In”

WOV 718

*** GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Gather us, gracious Lord, into the saving grace of your covenantal promises. Show us the light of your countenance and remind us often of our true citizenship; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

C: Amen. *The congregation may be seated.*

FIRST READING: Exodus 19: 1-8

On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.² They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain,³ while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, *“Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”*⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had

commanded him.⁸ All the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

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

Psalm 91: 1-12

¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

²I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

³For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

⁵You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

⁷A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

⁸You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

⁹Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place — the Most High, who is my refuge —

¹⁰no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

¹²On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

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

The congregation is invited to stand.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.

³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

L: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You O Christ!**

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE



SERMON

“Under His Wings You Will Find Refuge”
Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “Thy Holy Wings”

WOV 741

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

LBW p. 65

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response at the end of each petition.

P: Lord in your mercy, C: **Hear our prayer.**

LBW p. 65

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

Worshipers may greet one another with “the Peace of Christ.”

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING In response to God’s blessings, we offer our tithes to the Lord

HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE

* **OFFERTORY** Let the Vineyards **LBW p. 66**

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. God of glory, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with Words of grace and life. Filled with Your blessings, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

* **DIALOGUE AND PREFACE** **LBW p. 68**

* **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** **LBW p. 69**

* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION** **LBW p. 70**

* **LORD'S PRAYER** **LBW p. 71**

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

C: Thanks be to God!

The assembly may be seated.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion

COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God **LBW p. 72**

COMMUNION HYMN “Blessed Assurance” **WOV 699**

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Merciful God, we give thanks for the meal of grace that has nourished our faith. As we continue our Lenten journey through these forty days, we ask that You would renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

* **BLESSING**

* **SENDING HYMN** “God Be With You”

God be with you ‘til we meet again, By His Counsels guide, uphold you
With His sheep securely fold you God be with you ‘til we meet again

Chorus: ‘Til we meet, ‘til we meet ‘Til we meet at Jesus’ feet
‘Til we meet, ‘til we meet God be with you ‘til we meet again

God be with you till we meet again; ‘Neath His Wings, protecting, hide you,
Daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again. **Chorus**

God be with you ‘til we meet again, When life’s perils they confound you
Put His arms unfailing ‘round you God be with you ‘til we meet again **Chorus**

God be with you ‘til we meet again, Keep love’s banner floating o’er you
Smite death’s threatening wave before you God be with you ‘til we meet again. **Chorus**

* **DISMISSAL**

P: As God’s treasured possession, God has raised us up on eagle’s wings so that we may go forth boldly to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Grace Prayer List

In the Grace Church Family: Herb Travis is at April’s home with palliative care- please keep Herb and Libby and family in your prayers. Also, Helen Smith is at home now.

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Cole Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Michael, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Shirley Warlick, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, Nancy Willis, and Jack Wilfong.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village), Helen Smith (Cardinal Health)

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Randy Neill (Shelia Drum’s brother), Evelyn

Childers, J.C., Family of Adam Fortner, Billy Fortner, Family of Celia Hollar, Mel Raybourne, Jeffry Smith, Ed Tanzman, Kelly Wesson, the United States of America, 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.

ADDRESS FOR HERB & LIBBY TRAVIS:

If you would like to send a card of encouragement to Herb and Libby they are staying with Libby's daughter at 1926 45th Ave. Place NE Hickory, NC 28601

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Second Sunday in Lent

9:15am – Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Celebration

Monday

6:00pm – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting

Wednesday:

12 Noon – Senior Prayer Luncheon

6:30pm – Lenten Vespers Service at Grace Union Church

Special Dates and Events Coming Soon

Sunday March 16, 3:00pm – LR A Cappella Choir at Daniels Lutheran Church

Wednesday Vespers Service During Lent: March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9

We will have a short worship service with first person monologues presented by Pastor Doug. The theme will be "Friend of Sinners – Dinner with Jesus!"

Sun, April 13, Palm/Passion Sunday Procession of Palms /Reading of Luke's Passion

Thurs., April 17, 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service

Fri., April 18, 6:30pm Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 20 Resurrection of our Lord! Sunrise Service at 6:45am followed by Easter Breakfast. Sunday School at 9:15am, and Easter Service at 10:30am.

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace

Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner

Board President – Tim Eckard

Organist – Sandi Tallant

Lector – Todd Childers

Altar Preparation & Communion Assistants – Rick & Cindy Bivens

Ushers – Jason Yoder & Jeff Scronce

Youth Leader – Stormy Shull

Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Gary Leatherman

Administrative Assistant – Todd Childers