



Grace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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WELCOME TO GRACE: We rejoice over your presence this day as we gather in the Name and in the worship of our Lord. If you are a GUEST with us today, we hope you feel welcome in our church family and invite you to worship with us again. If you are interested in membership at Grace or want to know more about our church and our faith, please indicate your interest on the ATTENDANCE FORM in the pew.

Grace's Mission

✝ Sharing God's Grace

✝ Living His Word

✝ Making Disciples

Grace Lutheran Church is one of more than six thousand congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

We Believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the sole source for all Christian teaching and practice. *II Timothy 3:16*

We Believe "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

We Believe "by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." *Ephesians 2:8-9*

We Believe our relationship with everyone is based upon Jesus' words: "Love one another as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

Child Care We care about your children. We encourage parents with small children to help them participate in our worship. We ask you to have your children go to the restroom and get a drink before the service, and refrain from leaving during worship, unless there is an emergency. We have available a cry room equipped with sound located at the back of the sanctuary. Children's bulletins with activities are available.

Hearing Impaired For those who need assistance, please ask an usher for a wireless hearing aid. They are easy to use.

Please see Grace in Action for the week's calendar and other Important information regarding the ministry of our congregation!



WORSHIP FOLDER



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 9, 2025

“IT IS MORE THAN JUST SAYING NO”

AS WE GATHER

Jesus begins His earthly mission, not among the crowds, but in the isolation of the wilderness, struggling against His hunger, the elements, and the temptations of the evil one. Time and time again, the wicked foe presses upon Him, attempting to ensnare Him by his wiles into falling into his trap. But Jesus resists, repeating God’s Word – “Man shall not live by bread alone . . . You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve . . . You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.” God’s Word is the power to turn back Satan’s attacks. If it works for the Lord, perhaps it should be our defense against the devil too!

[If your health limits you, please don’t feel required to stand during the worship service.]



*In the Name of the
Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit*



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

✠ SERVICE OF PREPARATION ✠

ENTRANCE HYMN

(please stand for last stanza)

LSB 571

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

**5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.**

**6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!**

Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Luke 6:27, 32, 37

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

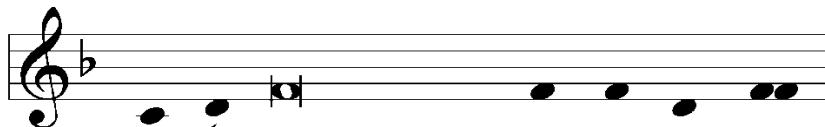
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

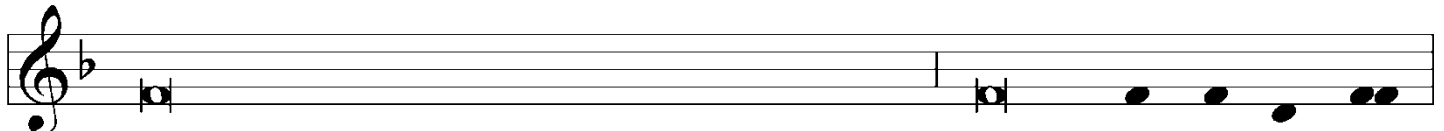
KYRIE



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



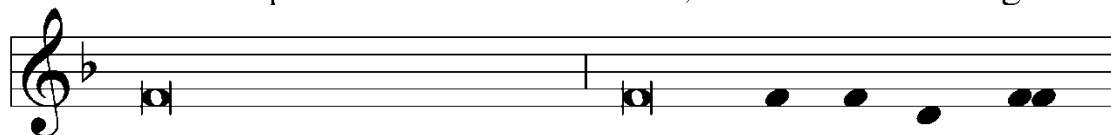
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



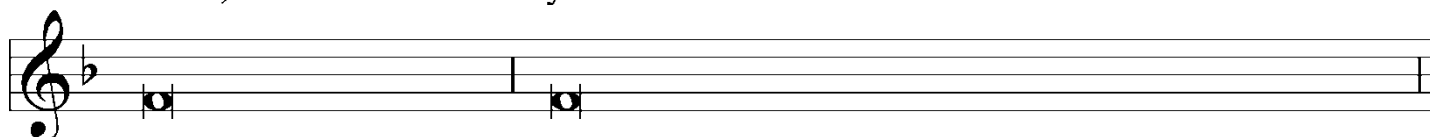
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



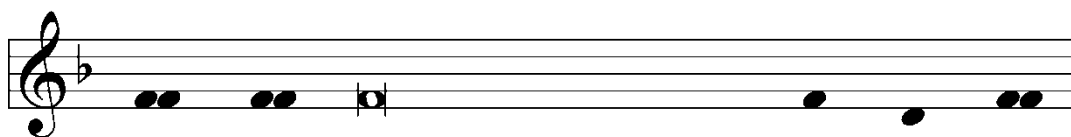
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, You sent Your Son to be tempted by the devil, and by the power of Your Holy Word alone He defeated the old, evil foe for us. Increase our faith and confidence in Your mighty Word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, that we may endure all temptation and remain true to Your call as members of Your family and the household of faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11

(Moses prepares Israel for entrance into the Promised Land.)

L The Old Testament Reading for the first Sunday in Lent is from Deuteronomy, chapter 26:

L ¹“When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God.

⁵“And you shall make response before the Lord your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O Lord, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the Lord your God and worship before the

Lord your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 10:8B-13

(The message of salvation to all.)

L The Epistle reading for today is from Romans, chapter 10:

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

(Tradition dictates that our eyes follow the cross. Please remain standing until the cross has been returned to its original position. The Gospel is read from the center of the church to symbolize the Gospel in our midst.)

VERSE

C Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 4:1-13

(The temptation of Jesus.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter six.

C Glory be to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.””

⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’

¹¹and

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

¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

VERSE

C Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

(please be seated)

CHILDREN’S SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB 657

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat -'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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SERMON TEXT:

LUKE 4:1-13

SERMON TITLE:

“MORE THAN JUST SAY NO!”

(please stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God

the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

(please be seated)

WE OFFER OUR FIRST FRUITS

(Financial support of Grace Lutheran Church is considered a privilege of membership. Although all offerings are welcome, we do not expect them from our visitors.)

VOLUNTARY

ORGAN

“Ein feste Burg”

(please stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord God, almighty Father, we give You thanks for Your clear and mighty Word by which You brought the entire universe into being and also ourselves as individual members of the human family. More than that, however, we praise You for re-creating us by faith in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be numbered among those counted already now as citizens of Your heavenly, eternal kingdom. Continue to form, guide, and direct us that we may be salt and light in this world, witnesses of Your eternal grace and glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for Your whole church of every time and every place—all those who rejoice with us in the truth of Your Holy Word as well as those living amid the suppression of Your truth who are challenged for their faith in the clarity of Your Word by the lies and confusion of unbelief. Enlighten the testimony of steadfastness of faith in the face of all falsehood. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Enable all who preach and teach Your Law and Gospel, those called to administer Your Holy Sacraments, and every servant of Your people with the stamina and conviction required to faithfully convey Your Word of truth both in season and out of season so as to convince, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering and patience. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Graciously grant to our nation, our people, and those who lead and serve in public office wisdom to seek and acknowledge Your divine will, that justice and peace may prevail among all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant Your healing and comfort to all who are sick or hospitalized, those cast down by sorrow or fear, and all who are in any need of body or spirit. Bless all who administer Your love in any way. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We give thanks to You for all who have died with the sign of faith and are with You. As together we await the glorious day of the resurrection of all flesh and our entry into Your eternal kingdom, grant the peace of faith and trust in Your abiding presence to us who still contend for Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICMUS

- P** Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

(please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

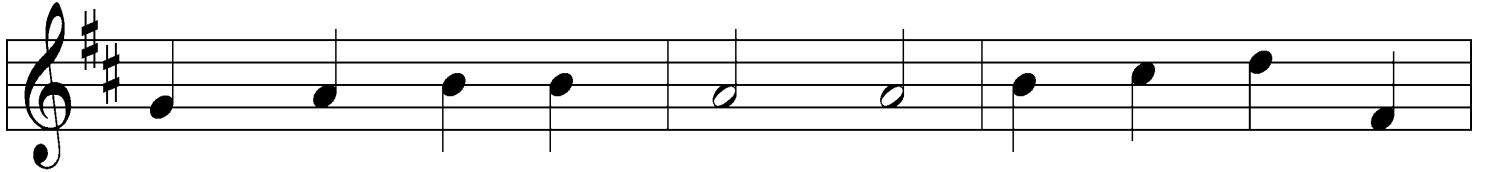
HYMN TO DEPART

LSB 418

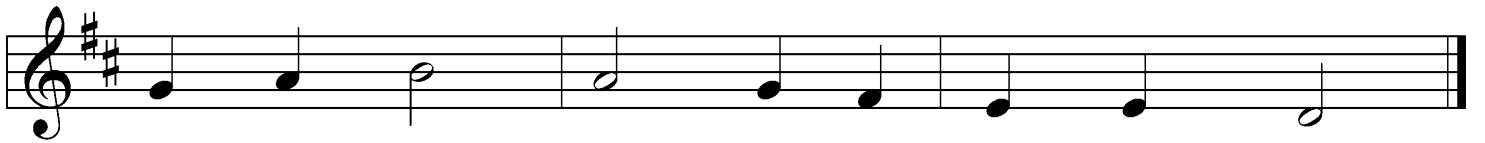
“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

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POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2024 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

 *To God Alone Be the Glory* 
THOSE WHO SERVE

Interim Pastor	Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey
Reader	Hope Molina
Acolyte.....	Alivia Schumacher
Organist.....	Virginia DeBerry
Elders	Steve DeShaw / Dennis Wehmeyer
Ushers	Brent Keese
.....	Mark Roush
.....	Jim Raven
.....	Tim Benton
Altar Guild	Cindy Hilton / Carol Massie
Teller.....	Hope Molina
Nursery Attendant	Gwen McWhorter

GRACE PRAYS

We continue to pray for the following:

- Pastor Ramey as he continues our transition toward calling a new pastor; especially as he weighs the comments and insights garnered through the “Listening Posts” conducted in February.
- We pray for our nation and its leadership; for Texas and its governor and legislature; for our county and community leaders.
- As we rejoice at the baptism of our newest brother, Theodoric, we also recall our own baptisms which mark our entry into God’s kingdom of grace.
- For our Early Childhood Program (ECP) and the lives of the children and their families that are impacted as we share Jesus with them.
- For our congregation that each of us come to understand the important roles each of us plays in the mission and ministry of our church.
- For our community, that we see our neighbors with eyes of love and compassion, remembering that for each and every one of us, Jesus willing died on the cross to make us all children of the heavenly Father.

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

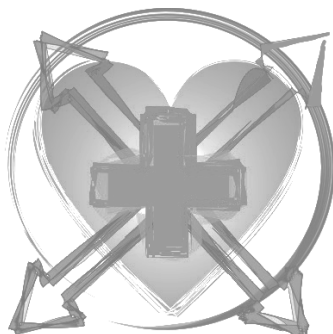
❖ Mike Barbian, Jo Burris, Charles Colgan, Jerry Damm, Eleanor Dillenburger, Mary Ann Johnston, Marilyn Richmond, Georgi Rushing, Brian Traugher, Bernice Weinkauff, and their caregivers.

ILL OR RECOVERING

- ✝ Linda (Rhonda Shutts' sister) whose biopsy was positive for cancer.
- ✝ Mary Morgan, who is undergoing a new chemotherapy.
- ✝ Diane Richey (Carol Massie's sister) is receiving palliative care at home.
- ✝ Marvin Stahla (Rhonda Shutts' brother) is receiving hospice care at home.
- ✝ Brian Traugher will have two stents inserted on March 13th.

PRAYER OF MOURNING

✝ Cassandra Kirkpatrick, friend of Stephanie & Karsen Mitchell died 3/5.



Grace Lutheran Church – LCMS

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Our Ministry Staff

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..... pastor@gracelutheranmidlandtx.org
Carol Massie, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Life.....638-4153
Mrs. Amy Hoppman, Early Childhood Director.....894-7027
Ms. Victoria J. Crawson, Church Office Administrator 626-484-9723