

Prelude & Confession

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Most holy and merciful God,

C: we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

C: We diminish our respect and awe of You by not putting our relationship with you on the top of our priority list. We relegate You to being our god of convenience and comfort rather than Creator of the Cosmos, and, in this way, we limit the power you have in our lives. Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We let other voices speak to us of fulfillment, hope and peace.

C: We have been tempted to turn away from the truth you offer us. We have doubted your presence, your power and your promise. Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We have shut our ears to your call to love and serve others with the same compassionate love and service Christ offers us.

C: We have not been diligent in staying keenly aware of how we can be a source of comfort, hope and sustenance to those who suffer, or are in despair, or deprived of what they need to live. We have found security in protecting and preserving our abundant blessings. Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We misuse and abuse the role you have given us in and over creation.

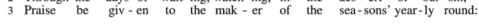
C: We exploit and squander the earth's resources without inconveniencing ourselves with consideration for the sustainability of life in the future. We assume the power of gods, but fail to seek the wisdom of God in the use of our power, focusing too much on our satisfaction in this moment rather than comprehending the full scope of our actions. We privilege our lives over the lives of other creatures without respect for the depth of the interconnectedness of all life. Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We do not always own our own problems, nor do we take enough responsibility for working to solve them.

C: We scapegoat, we make excuses, we get distracted. We do not bring them to you and open ourselves to the Spirit's guidance through unexpected voices and resources. We become discontented because we resign to empty contentment. We default to following the norm rather than clinging to the distinction of being a Child of God. Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

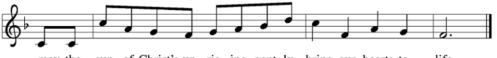






with its slow-ly grow-ing ra-diance warms the seed be-neath the earth.

with its slow-ly grow-ing ra-diance warms the seed be-neath the earth, search-ing on the far ho - ri - zon for a sign of cloud or wind, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it—Source, Sus - tain-er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up - ris - ing gent-ly bring our hearts to life. we a - wait the heal - ing wa-ters of our Sav-ior's vic - to - ry. as the ev - er turn - ing a - ges roll to their e - ter - nal rest.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Lord God, we give you thanks that even when your people turn from you, attempt to deceive you or distort your words of truth to our own selfish purposes, you pursue and persuade us to confess our sin, repent and turn back, for we are blessed that it is always your intention to be gracious and merciful, reconciling and forgiving. As we now listen to your word, gather at your table and sing your praises, fill us with the Spirit, that we will renew our commitment to being your faithful people and be encouraged in our own intention to be gracious and merciful with each other. Amen.

First Lesson

Genesis 45: 1-15

Joseph Reconciles with his Brothers

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So, no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

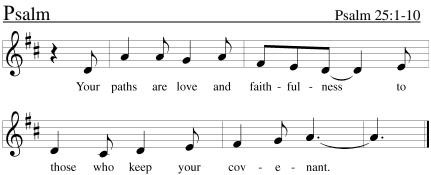
Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer.

He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you

and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. R

Lead me in your fruth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and Faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees. R

Second Lesson

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

Verse (Sung 2x)



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the nineteenth chapter. C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Luke 19

Zacchaeus Sees Jesus

As Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it, behold, a man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. He was seeking to see Jesus; to know who he is. But because Zaccheaus was also rather young for his position, the crowd was happy to block him from having any view of Jesus. So, Zaccheaus moved further down the street and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, because Jesus was about to come through there.

When Jesus came to that spot, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! For today it is necessary for me to stay at your house."

And Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus, rejoicing.

And everyone who saw this murmured, saying, "Jesus goes to stay with a sinful man."

But coming down from the tree and standing before Jesus, Zacchaeus said to the Lord, "Behold, half of what I possess, Lord, I give to the poor; and if I have extorted anyone, I give them back four times as much."

But Jesus said to him, "Today salvation came to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For, the Son of Man came to seek out and to save those being destroyed."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

[tune: 644]

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Beneath the weight of burdens deep, Our souls in need of mercy, weep. Forgiveness whispers through the night, In Christ, a promise shining bright.

Confession's truth, laid bare and raw, Before the One who knows each flaw. The grace of Christ, a cleansing stream, Restoring hope, in love redeemed.

Repentance now is calling To turn from paths of wandering. From brokenness, our spirits mend, Back to the faithful Way we bend.

And on that Way, forgiveness reigns; Our hearts released from guilt's dark chains And set upon sweet mercy's shore. A word of grace; love evermore.

We leave behind the debt of sin Yet, wear its scars, without, within. The sacrifice to hope we make. That grudge through life, we will not take.

Beneath the weight of burdens deep, Our souls in need of mercy, weep. Forgiveness whispers through the night, In Christ, a promise shining bright.

Apostles Creed

- P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
- C: We do with the help of God.
- *P:* Do you believe in God the Father?
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived of the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

The Prayers of the Church & Passing of the Peace



Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray:

C: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen

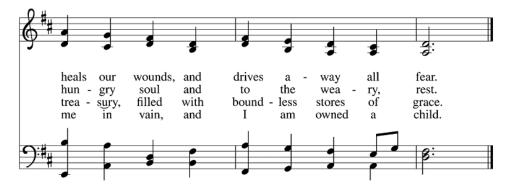


P: Holy God . . .





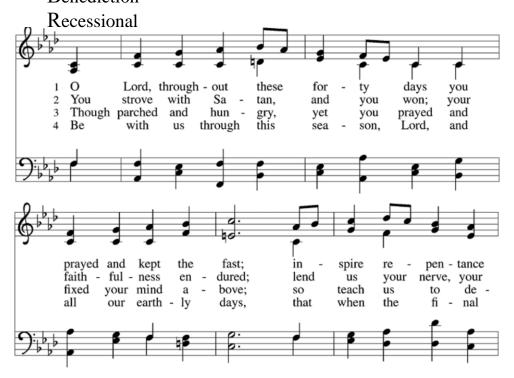




O, Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my prophet, priest, and king. my Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring. How weak the effort of my heart, how cold my warmest thought; But when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim With every fleeting breath; And may the music of thy name refresh my soul in death!

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer Benediction





Dismissal



Sunday, February 18

8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 9:45a.m. No Sunday School or Confirmation Classes 10:10 a.m. No Choir Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, February 19

9:30 a.m. Widowed Support Group Meeting

4:30 p.m. No Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Social Ministry/Green Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 20

6:30 a.m. Early Birds Bible Study & Breakfast

7:30 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting

11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris - hybrid

7:00 p.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – online

Wednesday, February 21

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers Quilting Group Meeting - in person only

6:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner Soup & Sandwiches – in the narthex

7:00 p.m. Lenten Evening Prayer

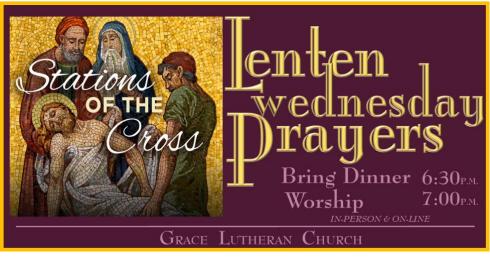
8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

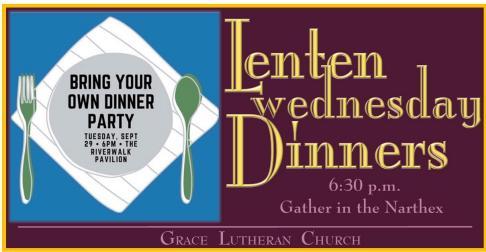
Sunday, February 25

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation Class

10:10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal





Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*Doug Jenkins, *Digital Media Coordinator* •
Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*