

First Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2020

5 Habits of Highly Effective Christians: Gather with God's People

This is the first Sunday of five in the season of Lent, a reflective and contemplative season in which we reflect on the health of our discipleship and contemplate the faithfulness of Jesus as he journeys to the cross for our sake. As we evaluate our faithfulness in comparison to his, we are humbled by both the limitations of our faithfulness and the abundance of Christ's love for us.

Our worship takes on this reflective, contemplative and humble character as well. The setting of the liturgy will change from the peppy tunes of Christmas and Epiphany to the more somber sounds of a setting based on an ancient Gregorian Chant. The Lenten themed hymns will have us singing in the minor key more often than usual. We will also make our corporate confession each Sunday. It would be best to kneel, but we have no kneelers so we will sit humbly and kneel instead for Communion.

Still, we do not want to give the impression that this is a dismal and dreary season. We are not hopeless, but hopeful and so we use the color purple to signify that Jesus is on his way to becoming the King, ruler over death and sin, at the end of his journey to the cross. Lent, then, is not a wallowing in misery and self-pity. It is a focus on using reflection and contemplation to peer through the visage of the reality in which we live now to more fully apprehend the promise of liberation and salvation which we are given through Jesus' faithfulness.

Prelude

Confession

P: 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.**

A: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. 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 convenient comfort rather than Creator of the Cosmos, and so we limit the power you have in our lives.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We let other voices and speak to us of fulfillment, hope and peace, tempting us to turn away from the truth you offer us. And so, we have doubted your presence, your power and your promise.

C: 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. 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, despair and are deprived of what they need. We have found security in protecting our abundant blessings.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: 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. 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.

C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Lenten Hymn

Forty Days

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Shall we not your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side;

For - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint or fail!
 'Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 That with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

Greeting & Kyrie

Prayer of the Day

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

P: Let us pray:
C: One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, echoing the community of Your triune identity, You gather us as Your people; individually called and loved, but incorporated into a community which, together, is the presence of Christ in our

world. Bless us in our striving to be your people. Inspire our commitment to being a Church that reconciles our differences and divisions for the sake of our unified effort in accomplishing the work of Your Kingdom. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Lesson

Acts 2

The earliest congregation that gathered around Jesus' disciples after Jesus had been taken up into heaven continued to be intently focused on the apostles' teaching and on being in fellowship with them. They were devoted to the breaking of bread and community prayers. . . . The members of the congregation were not self-consumed. They had all things in common, selling their properties and assets to share the proceeds as any had a need. All day long they were devoted to this work. In solidarity of mind and perspective, they spent time together in the Temple, worshipping and conversing. Then they would go back home to break bread and share their food together with joy and with clear hearts, praising God and treating everyone with grace. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: The Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Behold How Pleasant

649

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 12 - 13

To each of us is given a manifestation of the Spirit to the building up of the gathered. To one is given through the Spirit, words of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of power, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But, all this energizing is by the one and the same Spirit, who apportions out to each one individually just as the Spirit determines. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one

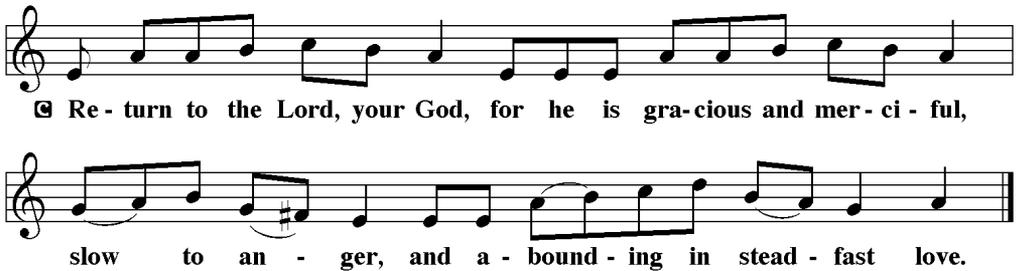
member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

L: The Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Verse



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the ninth Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 9

Jesus took his disciples and tried to get away from the crowds by going alone to the city called Bethsaida. But, when the crowds realized they were leaving they followed him. So, Jesus welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and those with an illness, he restored.

As the day was drawing to a close the Twelve came to him and said, "This is a very remote place. Let the crowd go so that they can find lodging and provisions in the surrounding villages and fields."

But Jesus said to them, "You give them something to eat."

They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish--you don't expect us to be going out to buy food for all these people, do you?"

There were about five thousand men gathered there,

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each."

So, the disciples made them all sit down.

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, and having looked up into heaven, Jesus blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. And twelve baskets abounding with leftovers were taken away.

P: *The Gospel of our Lord!*

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Christian Hearts in Love United* [tune: 707]

1. Christian hearts in love united,
search to know God's holy will.
Let his love, in us ignited,
more and more our spirits fill.
Christ the head, and we his members--
we reflect the light he is.
Christ the master, we disciples--
he is ours and we are his.

2. Grant, Lord, that with your direction
"Love each other" we comply.
Help us live in true affection,
your love to exemplify.
Let our mutual love be glowing

brightly so that all may view
that we, as on one stem growing,
living branches are in you.

3. Come, then, living church of Jesus,
covenant with him anew.

Unto him who conquered for us
may we pledge our service true.

May our lives reflect the brightness
of God's love in Jesus shown.

To the world we then bear witness:
we belong to God alone.

Nicene Creed

page 104

Prayers of the Church

Passing of the Peace

Offering

Anthem

Offertory & Prayer

685 vs. 1, 4 & 6

A: Let us pray:

C: Loving God, we give you thanks for the bounty and blessings of our lives, returning these offerings as signs of our gratitude. May these gifts further your work and sustain your kingdom among us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

page 161

The Lord's Prayer

page 163

Distribution Hymns

471, 491, 468, 465

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

God be With You Till We Meet Again

536

Dismissal

FLU SEASON, AN OUTBREAK OF RSV and the potential impact of the Coronavirus make us all aware and more cautious about sharing our germs, bacteria and viruses. During this time of increased vulnerability, Grace will take three precautionary measures to reduce the risk of sharing things with each other that we do not wish to share while continuing to share together the things that are important to us.

- ❖ So, we will continue the Passing of the Peace, but please refrain from handshakes and hugs by making the “V” peace-sign to each other instead.
- ❖ Communion will return to being served at the rail so we may choose to receive the wine in individual glasses rather than by Intinction - the Common Cup will continue to be an option.
- ❖ Finally, hand sanitizer is easily available for everyone to use as you enter worship.

Of course, it is also very helpful if everyone follows the usual habits of good hygiene: cough/sneeze into your arm, not your hand; wash your hands frequently - saying the “A, B, C’s” all the way through while soaping up; refrain from joining in group activities if you are feeling Flu symptoms.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH & SERVICE begin this Wednesday. Bring a sandwich to enjoy with a soup provided by one of Grace’s Ministry Committees. Then stay to center yourself in the season with the quietly contemplative music of the French Christian community of “Taize.” Each week readings will focus on a different *Fruit of the Spirit* : *Self Control, Patience, Joy, Gentleness and Love*. We hope you will join us.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES – A new First Communion Class will be getting underway next Sunday, March 8th in Pastor Chris’ office at 12:15 pm. Class will continue on the 15th and 22nd. Anyone interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Chris.

MONTHLY YOUTH DINNER GATHERING – we will be meeting next Sunday, March 8th at 6:00pm for our monthly dinner gathering. Pastor Chris is also looking for a parent volunteer to help coordinate the meal. If you are able to assist, please contact Pastor Chris at 914-223-0995. Please also RSVP as soon as possible so that we can make sure to have enough food.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – will be held on Sunday March 15th after each service with the only agenda items being an extension of call to Doug Jenkins to become a synodical deacon as well as

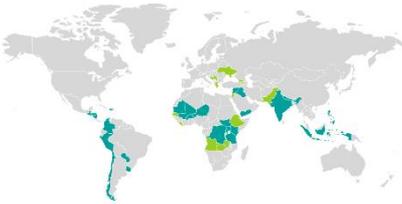
reinstatement from on-leave from call for our other 3 deacons: Peg Lindblom, Carol Straub & Chuck Rogler. We hope you will plan on staying after worship for one of these important meetings in support of our congregation members.



Please make your tax-deductible donation to support Grace Lutheran and our many faithful ministries using this QR code!

A Season of Hope

*Grace's Lenten Lutheran World Relief
40 "Personal Care Kit" Collection*



- Quilt and Kits of Care distributions.
- Long-term development project and/or emergency response.

"Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared,

vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty."

LWR Website



Every Lent Grace participates in a Lutheran World Relief campaign to assist those in need around the world. This year we will be collecting different "Personal Care Kit" items on each Sunday during Lent. Our goal is to gather after each service on Easter Sunday to assemble a total of 200 Personal Care Kits. Please bring an item each Lenten Sunday and place it in the box as you enter the Sanctuary. The boxes will be brought forward as part of our congregation's offering each Sunday. Here is the schedule for items to bring: *(see schedule on next page)*

March 1 Light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color

- March 8** Three 2-bar pkgs. of Soap 8 to 9 oz. any brand, in original wrapping
- March 15** Adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- March 22** A Sturdy comb, remove packaging
- March 29** metal nail clippers (attached file optional)
- April 12th** - Personal Care Kit Assembly after each service in the Fellowship Hall on EASTER SUNDAY! Each kit takes only a few minutes to assemble.

Upcoming Events at Grace

Today, Sunday March 1st *Gather with God's People*

- ❖ Worship, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- ❖ Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
- ❖ Confirmation Class, 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Monday, March 2nd

- ❖ Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3rd

- ❖ Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 4th

- ❖ Mid-week Lenten Soup & Sandwiches, 6:30 p.m. Soup provided by Social Ministry Committee
- ❖ Mid-week Lenten Taize Service, 7:30 p.m. “*Self Control*”
- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 5th

- ❖ Bible Study with Pastor Chris, 11:00 a.m.
- ❖ Bible Study with Pastor Chris, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 7th

- ❖ Spring Forward! Move clocks ahead one hour before bed

Next Sunday, March 8th *Encounter God's Word*

- ❖ Worship, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- ❖ Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
- ❖ Confirmation Class, 9:45 a.m.- 10:45 a.m.
- ❖ First Communion Class, 12:15 p.m.
- ❖ Youth Dinner Gathering, 6:00 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

3830 Gomer St. • Yorktown Heights, NY • 10598 • 914.245.5737 • www.graceyorktown.org

LENT'S **5** HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANS

March 1

Gather with God's People

March 8

Encounter God's Word

March 15

Devotion to Prayer

March 22

Take the Gospel Perspective

March 29

Commitment to Compassion