

#### 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

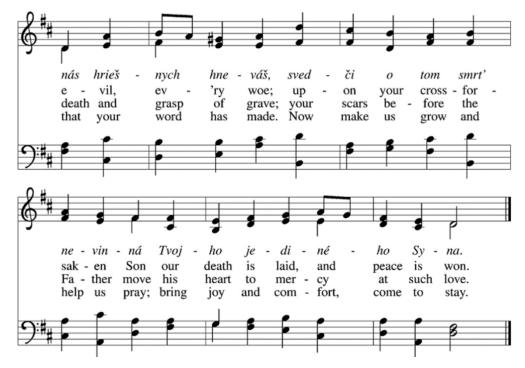
P: We misuse and abuse the role you have given us in and over creation.

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.

A: 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.





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.



1 As the sun with long-er jour-ney melts the win-ter's snow and ice,

2 Through the days of wait-ing, watch-ing, in the des-ert of our sin, 3 Praise be giv-en to the mak-er of the sea-sons' year-ly round:



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: Almighty God, at the beginnings of all things, you spoke a word so that order and life were brought to creation. In the voices of your prophets you gave your people your words of promise, judgement and redemption. Now, in these last days, you have spoken to us by your Son, your Word Incarnate. Send us the Spirit to open our ears, our hearts and our minds to listen, to contemplate, and to respond faithfully to your Word, trusting and hoping in your power to accomplish all that you have declared. Amen.

#### First Lesson

2 Chronicles 34:8-33

In the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God. They came to the high priest Hilkiah and delivered the money that had been brought into the house of God, which the Levites, the keepers of the threshold, had collected from Manasseh and Ephraim and from all the remnant of Israel and from all Judah and Benjamin and from the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They delivered it to the workers who had the oversight of the house of the Lord, and the workers who were working in the house of the Lord gave it for repairing and restoring the house. They gave it to the carpenters and the builders to buy quarried stone, and timber for binders, and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had let go to ruin. The people did the work faithfully. Over them were appointed the Levites Jahath and Obadiah, of the sons of Merari, along with Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to have oversight. Other Levites, all skillful with instruments of music, were over the burden bearers and directed all who did work in every kind of service; and some of the Levites were scribes, and officials, and gatekeepers.

While they were bringing out the money that had been brought into the house of the Lord, the priest Hilkiah found *The Book of the Law of the Lord* given through Moses.

Hilkiah said to the secretary Shaphan, "I have found *The Book of the Law* in the house of the Lord"; and Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan. Shaphan brought the book to the king, and further reported to the king, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing. They have

emptied out the money that was found in the house of the Lord and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers and the workers."

The secretary Shaphan informed the king, "The priest Hilkiah has given me a book."

Shaphan then read it aloud to the king.

When the king heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes.

Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, the secretary Shaphan, and the king's servant Asaiah: "Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been found; for the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us is great, because our ancestors did not keep the word of the Lord, to act in accordance with all that is written in this book."

So Hilkiah and those whom the king had sent went to the prophet Huldah, the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe (who lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter) and spoke to her to that effect.

She declared to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Tell the man who sent you to me,

'Thus says the Lord: I will indeed bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book that was read before the king of Judah. Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods, so that they have provoked me to anger with all the works of their hands, my wrath will be poured out on this place and will not be quenched.'

But as to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him:

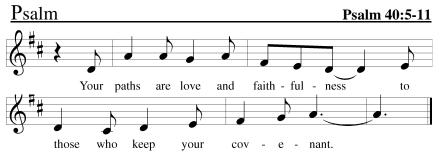
'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, because your heart was penitent and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me, and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the Lord. I will gather you to your ancestors and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring on this place and its inhabitants."

They took the message back to the king.

Then the king sent word and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. The king went up to the house of the Lord, with all the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the

Levites, all the people both great and small; he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. The king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord, keeping his commandments, his decrees, and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. Then he made all who were present in Jerusalem and in Benjamin pledge themselves to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem acted according to the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors. Josiah took away all the abominations from all the territory that belonged to the people of Israel and made all who were in Israel worship the Lord their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the Lord the God of their ancestors.

Reader: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!



You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you.

### Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted. R

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear.

# Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. R

Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

# I delight to do your will, Ó my God; your law is within my heart."

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

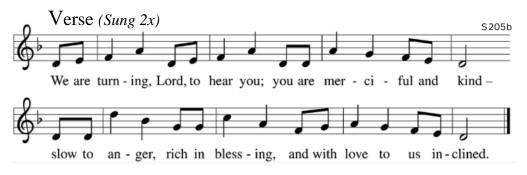
Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever. R

### Second Lesson

Luke 1:1-4

S ince many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who, from the beginning, were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I, too, decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

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



## Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel Mark 4

A gain, Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. And Jesus taught them many parables, and in his teaching, he said to them: "Listen! A Sower went out and sowed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up right away,

since it had no depth of soil. But then, when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell into the thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it did not give any fruit. Other seed fell into the good soil and gave fruit, growing up and increasing and bearing, in one case, thirtyfold, and in another case, sixtyfold, and in another case, a hundredfold."

And Jesus said, "Whoever is given ears that hear, hear!"

And when Jesus was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables.

And Jesus said to them, "The mystery of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but others hear everything in parables so that

'they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven." [Isaiah 6:9-10]

And Jesus said to them, "You don't understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The one sowing the word, sows. But the ones on the path where the word is sown, when they may hear it, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is being sown in them. And these are the ones being sown on rocky ground - whenever they may hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy, but they are not grounded in themselves, but are weak and easily discouraged, so that when cross-tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, they lose their faith right away. And others, the ones being sown among the thorns - these are the ones who hear the word, and the anxieties of the times, and the seductions of wealth, and the focus on "better days ahead" choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. And these are the ones being sown on the good soil - these are the ones hearing the word, and accepting it, and bearing fruit, one thirty and one sixty and one a hundredfold."

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





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* . . .













## Sunday, March 10 National Quilting Day Last day to order Easter Flowers!

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

#### Monday, March 11

1:00 p.m. Grace Book Club Meeting

#### Tuesday, March 12

6:30 a.m. Early Birds Bible Study & Breakfast No Bible Studies w/ Pastor Chris this week

#### Wednesday, March 13

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

#### Thursday, March 14

7:30 p.m. Digital Committee Meeting

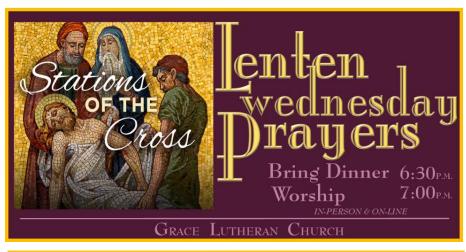
#### Sunday, March 17

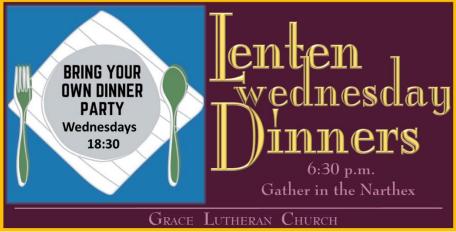
#### Last day to donate to Easter food drive

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

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

10:10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

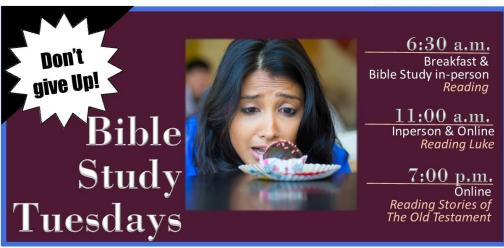






Use this QR Code to Order Your Easter Flowers now!















#### 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