

Welcome to
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**1st Sunday
in Lent**

February 21 & 22 2026



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots
out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

A: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

A: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

The congregation is invited to face the Processional Cross as we sing our Gathering Song.

GATHERING SONG

ELW # 320

THE GLORY OF THESE FORTY DAYS

THE GREETING

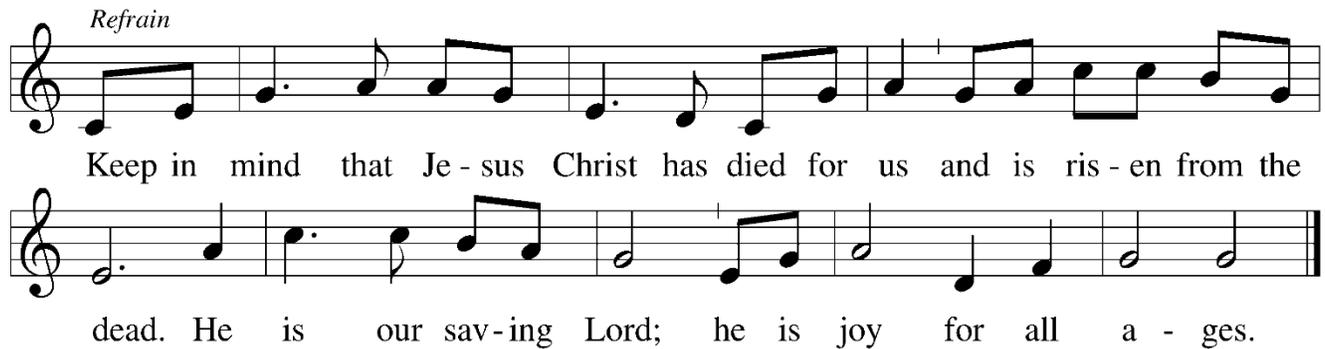
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you!

A CANTICLE FOR LENT

The Congregation is invited to sing the refrain, while Pastor sings the verses.

Refrain



Keep in mind that Je - sus Christ has died for us and is ris - en from the
dead. He is our sav - ing Lord; he is joy for all a - ges.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are written below the notes.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You

shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

On Sunday.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's moment, children in pre-k through 5th grade are invited to gather in the Sunday School room for an activity. They will return to worship before communion.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

READING OF THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Please be seated.

TODAY’S REFLECTION

REV. CLAYTON J. BAILEY

On Sunday.

THE AFTERWORD

Middle & High School Youth are invited following the reflection to meet in the Dining Room.

They will connect with the message for the day and spend time in prayer. The youth will return following the offering hymn.

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW # 517

LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

AN AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

P: Together let us reaffirm our faith in the crucified and risen Christ.

A: When nation rises against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, the end is not violence:

P: For there is a God of resilient, redeeming love, and the Brighter Purpose is at work in the shadows, and the darkness cannot smother it.

C: Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

A: When there are earthquakes, famines and pestilences, and collisions among the stars, the end is not chaos:

P: God the Creator of the heavens and the earth has not forsaken us, and harmony will again break out and gather to hasten towards consummation.

C: Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

A: When believers are arrested and abused, dragged before kings and governors, the end is not injustice:

P: The Holy Spirit is always with you in all your trials and travail, and words will be given to confound your adversaries and shake the gates of hell.

C: Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

A: When parents, brothers, sisters, relatives or friends, betray you even unto death, the end it not alienation:

P: The crucified Christ will reconcile all things seen and unseen, and the glorious finale is much nearer than when you first believed.

C: Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

THE PRAYERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

At this time you are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with those around you. Following the Sharing of the Peace you may be seated.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

ELW # 325

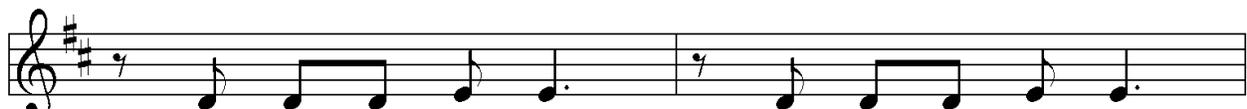
I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C: **Your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: As our Savior Christ has taught us, together we are bold to pray.

C: **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.**

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

AGNUS DEI



☪ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

At Grace, all are welcome to the Table of the Lord. At the ushers invitation, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice is offered as an additional substitute. As you return to your seat using the side aisle, there is a basket to dispose of your individual communion cup. Those who would like a blessing are also welcome to come forward. Simply ask Pastor for a blessing instead of taking communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 618

GUIDE ME EVER, GREAT REDEEMER

After all have communed, you will be invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace.

P: Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! You are God's gift to us today. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and come worship with us again.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Sunday worship is live streamed on Facebook.

DRIVE-IN CHURCH - If you are joining us on Sunday in the parking lot please tune your radio to 90.3 FM.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Patricia Adams and Bill & Dorothy Sachs, by David & Lisa Sachs and their daughters, Kristen, Rachel, Cheryl, and Taylor.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given as a gift to the congregation. **(Radio Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday morning at 9:30 am on Eagle 99.1. Anyone wishing to sponsor a radio broadcast [cost is \$72.50], should contact the church office.)**

THIS WEEK AS YOU PRAY please remember: Diane Berryman, Kristen Brown, Tim Dabrunz, William Damschroder, Peggy Dorr, Donna Garner, Ken Hirt, Debbie Porter, Duane Pump, Tim Rutherford, Karen Sabiers, Julie Stawowy, Melissa Toker, and Connie Wasserman.

HOSPITAL VISITS! If you, or a member of your family, are in the hospital, please call the church office and let us know.

HEARING DEVICES are available at the Usher's station at the back of the Sanctuary. Please return after worship so that they can be charged and ready for the next service.

PRAYER LIST REQUESTS - If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer and would like to be added to our prayer list, please write their name on the back of our *Welcome Cards*. You are welcome to indicate what prayers are needed, i.e. "has an upcoming surgery" etc. Names submitted for our prayer list will remain on the list for four (4) weeks. Our goal is to keep the prayer list ever flowing and as up to date as possible.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm and Friday from 9 am - 1 pm.

SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWSLETTER should be sent to Tricia in the office at dabrunztricia@yahoo.com

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THE NOISY OFFERING will be received on February 28 & March 1 at both services. The noisy offering collected this weekend will be given to Bridge of Hope Food Pantry.

BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION will take place next weekend at both services. They need the following items: cereal, canned meats, rice, dried pinto beans, cans of tomato sauce, pasta, paper towels, cleaning supplies and diapers. These items may be placed in the shopping carts located in the Narthex and at the Baker Street entrances. You may also take your gifts directly to the Bridge of Hope Food Pantry at Hayes Memorial UMC, 1441 Fangboner Rd., Fremont. Thank you for your help.

JUGGLING ACT - Ladies do you feel like you are always juggling the demands of life? Sometimes it's nice to gather with others that are juggling the same demands around a meal that you did not have to prepare. This group meets at 5:30 pm on the fourth Monday of each month at The Garrison. Our next gathering will be February 24. If you plan to attend please call the church office.

THE PROJECT DAY GROUP will once again make quilts for the Let's Build Beds Project in September 2026 and Lutheran World Relief. They need FLAT bed sheets to use as the back of the quilts. These may be new or gently used (no holes or stains. Please drop off the sheets to the church office or place them in the shopping carts. Thank you for supporting our local and Lutheran World Relief projects.

BOOKWORMS will meet on *March 23 at 2 pm* in the lounge to discuss *The Housemaid* by Fredia McFadden.

FOR OUR YOUTH

KIDS ZONE - Toddlers - 5th graders are invited to join Penny Russell and Cornelia Star following the Children's Message for a short lesson and activity. They will return to worship before communion. If your child does not wish to participate they return to their seat following the Children's Message.

AFTERWORD for our Middle & High School youth it's not the last word, just the next step. Students are invited following the sermon to connect with message of the day and pray. They will return to worship during the offering hymn.

ATTENTION PARENTS - Do you want to keep your children busy during worship, but you don't want take them out of the sanctuary? Please check out our new play area in front of the chapel. There are activities, toys to play with, and books to read while you join us for worship. If you feel that you need to take your children out of the sanctuary there is a nursery with live audio of the service so you don't miss out on worship.

LIFT

BACKPACK BUDDIES NEEDS OUR HELP! We are currently in need of the following items: oatmeal packets, Nutri-Grain bars, cold cereal, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, individual mac-n-cheese cups, pasta cups, cans of soup, individual heat and eat soups, individual serving cups of peanut butter, cups of applesauce, fruit cups, sandwich crackers, pudding cups, cookies, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, chips, pretzels, granola bars, Teddy Grahams, microwave popcorn, Ritz crackers, Rice Krispie Treats, milk, yogurt, beef sticks, Oatmeal Cream Pies and peanuts. We are also accepting monetary donations. These gifts help us to fill in any gaps in donations. Your check should be made payable to LIFT and please write Backpack Buddies on the memo line.

WE'RE HIRING

OUR CUSTODIAL TEAM is looking for an extra set of hands to assist with mopping, vacuuming and other custodial needs. The position offers 6 - 8 hours per week. If you are interested please call the church office.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP WITH SOME ODDS AND ENDS IN THE CHURCH OFFICE? An extra set of hands would be helpful (on an as needed basis) to help prepare the welcome cards for the church pews or add inserts to the bulletins. If you are interested please call Tricia in the church office.

THE SOUP KITCHEN TEAM needs extra hands on the first and fifth Thursdays of every month to help serve and clean up after meal for our neighbors. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 11 am and typically leave about 1 pm. If you have questions please call the church office and we will get your contact information to the staff of the Soup Kitchen.

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The Affirmation of Faith was written by Bruce Prewer and posted on reworship.blogspot.com

The Glory of These Forty Days/Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word/Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer/

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THIS WEEK AT GRACE

February 22 - March 1, 2026

Today: 9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone

10:15 - Confirmation

Monday: 1:00 - Bible Study with Maureen

6:00 - Pack 302 Parent Meeting

7:00 - Dartball, Away

Tuesday: 5:30 – Juggling Act at The Garrison

Wednesday: 5:15 – Lenten Supper

6:30 – Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Thursday: 11:30 - Soup Kitchen

Friday: - - - - -

Saturday: 4:00 - Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering/BOH Food

Pantry Collection

Sunday: **NOISY OFFERING/BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone

10:15 - Confirmation

WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 129

SERVING IN WORSHIP

SATURDAY 4 PM

**GREETER:
NARTHEX** Thomas O'Brien

READER Tanya Schardt

**COMMUNION
ASSISTANT** Wendy Bailey

SUNDAY 9 AM

ACOLYTES Bailey Rollins

**GREETER:
NARTHEX** Dave & Rae Ann Cooper

**GREETER:
BAKER ST.** Dan & Carol Polter

**WORSHIP
ASSISTANT** Mary Nossaman

READER John Burmeister

**COMMUNION
ASSISTANT** Beth Muffler

**DEACONS/
CLOSERS** Cornelia Star
Mindy Gedeon

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Senior Pastor

Rev. Clayton J. Bailey

pastorcbailey@gmail.com

561-670-3684

Lay Associate Minister:

Maureen Pump

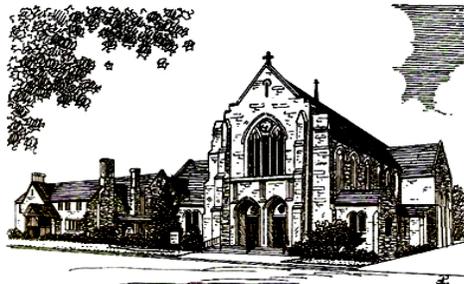
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Called to Present the Light of Christ!