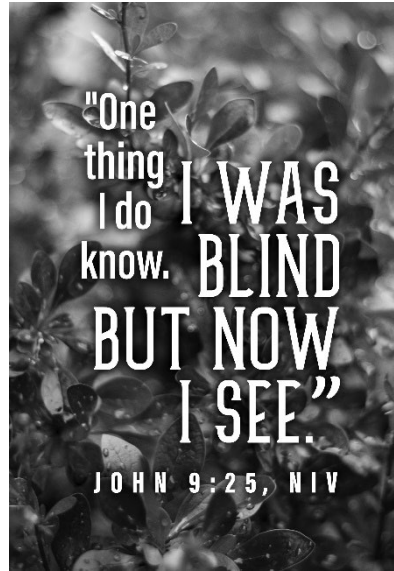


The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 19, 2023
8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86

Eaton, Ohio 45320

937.456.6258 – Fax: 937.456.4293

GraceEaton111@gmail.com – www.gracelutheranofeaton.com

Pastor: Dwight Hanson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

In Holy Communion our Lord Jesus graciously invites those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to repent of all that separates us from God, and to receive His sacred and real presence for the forgiveness of sins.

In addition to wine, grape juice is also offered.

Children who do not yet receive Communion may come for a blessing.

Holy Communion will be offered as you kneel at the chancel rail.

Please take a moment to fill out the "Attendance & Communion" Registration Cards (located in the pew racks). Pass your card to the end of your pew.

P - Presiding Minister

A - Assisting minister

C - Congregation

* - PLEASE STAND

+ + +

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

C **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

Please kneel or sit as you are able.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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 us and, for his sake,

forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE:**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

***GATHERING HYMN: "Jesus Still Lead On" (LBW 341)**



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to our Fa - ther's land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in our Fa - ther's land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

***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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P Holy Lord, you give sight to the blind and life to those who trust in your Son. May the light of your Christ pierce through our blindness and open us to your way of life;

C **through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 42:14-21

A A reading from Isaiah:

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see!

¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 142

A I cry to the Lord with my voice; to the LORD I make loud supplication.

C **²I pour out my complaint before him and tell him all my trouble.**

A ³When my spirit languishes within me, you know my path; in the way wherein I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

C **⁴I look to my right hand and find no one who knows me; I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for me.**

A ⁵I cry out to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

C **⁶Listen to my cry for help, for I have been brought very low; save me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.**

A 7Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name; when you have dealt bountifully with me, the righteous will gather around me.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:8-14

A A Reading from Ephesians:

8... {F}or at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL 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: John 9:1-41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



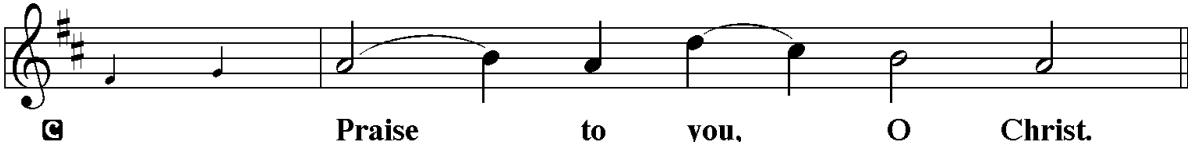
☐ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹As {Jesus} passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva.

Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may

believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

What do you think it means in the Bible reading today when it says “the fruit of light”? (Discussion). Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” When we follow the Lord, we have Heaven’s light in our lives. And that means that good things will grow, now and forever. Let’s pray...

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson:

The Clear Sight of Faith

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see” (John 9:25b).

Scripture bears witness to how the man born blind, the beggar of John 9, was able to remain standing amid the strong winds of cultural pressure. In the long history of Christianity, few people have begun with more disadvantages. No physical sight, no formal education, no emergency fund, no real community backing, just the unexpected mercy of a pilgrim from Galilee, who was in truth more than meets the eye. As it turns out, if just this one, the Lord Jesus Christ, is on your side, all things are possible. *“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world”* (John 9:5).

The pitiful man who overheard these words needed a miracle. And he received two of them. The first one, physical in nature, opened his eyes to see this world in all of its created beauty. Can you imagine the moment?

The second miracle, spiritual in nature, opened the eyes of his heart to the Lord Jesus, the incarnate Word through whom all things were made (John 1:3). But this second kind of sight also revealed a different kind of darkness, worldly corruption

within unredeemed hearts. The new vision within the man born blind became the source of a simple, steadfast faithfulness. And he would need it going forward, as the influencers of Jerusalem society turned around and made him an outcast once more, due to his new clarity, honesty, and gratitude. Yet here we are, still talking about what God did for this man, and the witness that has come down to us through him, how the kindness of God found a home in the loyalty of his heart.

There's a fascinating footnote to this passage, occurring some 1,500 years later. Martin Luther, at a crucial moment of clarity, had something to say about beggars. It seemed that the reformer was never meant to have an easy earthly life. Perhaps that's what drove him to God's Word and the deeper consolations of the Holy Spirit. Ironically, the last controversy that he would successfully address had nothing to do with theological language or Renaissance Rome. It ended up being about paperwork and lawyers. Think about that as the tax deadline approaches! Anyway, there was some controversy regarding the extended family's inheritance. Powerful outsiders had gotten involved. The family called on its most famous member to see if he could help. So, even though Martin had been ill, and it was an unusually harsh winter, he traveled back to his home area, seeking a resolution. In fact, he would end up in the very town where he was born, Eisleben, where his father had hustled to the church to have his newborn son baptized, in recognition of an inheritance of greater significance.

Martin and family were able to handle the tricky legal negotiations, and to do it with good will among all parties involved, an unusual accomplishment in this world. And it spilled over to an invitation for the great Reformer to preach at the local church. Which he did. But he had to end it prematurely, as sudden weakness came over him. Late in the night, with his body giving way, he confided in the doctor, "I am certain that I will remain here in Eisleben where I was born and baptized!" (pg. 297, *Luther the Reformer*; by James Kittelson). In his final moments, those who were with him heard him repeating the words from John, chapter 3, over and over again, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son..." (pg. 297). After his passing, a scrap of paper was found in his pocket, some final reflections. The very last words are the ones that have endured: "This is true. We are all beggars" (Written in Latin: "Hoc est verum Wir sind alle Pettler"; pg. 297).

In other words, all of us are also in the 9th chapter of John, where our deep need is met by the kindness and grace of God. Born of water and the Holy Spirit, faith brings its own clarity. And once you see this point, you realize that no

Christian has ever had just an easy path. Grace, yes, but grace and ease don't often travel together in this life. In fact, it's often when we're at our weakest that grace shines through the most.

At some point, all people have to weigh the options before them, especially when cultural offerings become cultural mandates. Hypothetical considerations go away and what the Bible is talking about becomes very real in present time. Then the question rises up before us: What does it mean to walk as a child of the light? As you're thinking about the matter for yourself, let me illustrate the point with more examples of what that looks like, right from today's other readings.

Consider the first lesson. God called the whole of his people, as they sat in exile, "blind." Far from Jerusalem, after so many years, they simply could not see a way forward, a way home. But God saw it for them, and would not only lead them, but also clear the way for them through the wild lands. The clarity of faith does not mean that we always see and understand the way forward. The clarity of faith means trusting God, who can see all things. As the Lord vowed to himself in Isaiah 42, "*I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them*" (vs. 16b). Let those words sink into the deepest places of your being.

How about another example of the clear sight of faith surrounded by a kind of dangerous blindness? It's right there in our second lesson from Ephesians. Paul had written to fellow Christians, "*For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord*"

(Ephesians 5:8-10).

What's all this about? Well, Christians who had grown up in Ephesus (straight east across the sea from Athens) had lived their whole lives near the site of one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Temple of Artemis. It seems that long before the time of Christ, a meteorite had fallen to earth, or as Acts 19:35 puts it, "*the sacred stone that fell from the sky.*" The ancient people who witnessed it built a temple around the stone. Pagan eyes saw a space rock, but their minds and hearts perceived the basic form of the goddess Artemis, believed to provide fertility to all living things, "man and beast and vegetation." She would have been seen as the giver of all fruitfulness. Thus, Paul's challenge to Ephesian Christians about the importance of walking in the light of *Christ* and seeking *the fruit of light*.

The cultural pressure regarding the pagan temple also had to do with the economy. As one reference book put it, “Her temple was a huge landholding corporation...” (pg. 242, *The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*; Vol. 1). The original building had been the size of a football field, made of marble (Biblicalarchaeology.org). It was extraordinary by all earthly standards. People wanted to see it, and purchase silver keepsake mementoes to take with them. Religious tourism thrived. So, if one were to mess with Artemis, you were messing not only with beliefs, but also pocketbooks. One ancient person had indeed messed with these matters, burning down the original temple. The locals never forgot it. They rebuilt. The second version was the one that Paul would have seen. No wonder they rioted when Paul’s teaching started to take hold. And the riot began with a guild of idol makers! (See Acts 19). Nevertheless, truth was truth, and for Paul, as he looked out, well, one can guess the kinds of rituals and celebrations that were held in a land of wine, as a goddess of fertility was sought and honored. Enough said. Paul had strong words to Christians in that region. “*Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you*” (Ephesians 5:14b).

Every generation has some challenge in regard to faithfulness. There’s a kind of worldly sight that’s actually blindness to the things of God. And there’s a kind of spiritual insight that sees far beyond physics and spiritual deception. It’s to this that we’re called, into the light of the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ, truth that grabbed hold of a dying Luther: “We are all beggars.” But just like the man in John 9, we are blessed, standing before the throne of grace, with faith that shall one day be sight, awaiting the reception of a great inheritance in a Kingdom where there is no rust or thief. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY:**

“Be Thou My Vision” (ELW 793)



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by 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.**

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

A Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, the true Light of the world, show us the way. Guide our feet onto steady ground. By the power of the Holy Spirit, give us the ability to see that Jesus is the Son of God, and to follow him courageously. Give us compassion for others, even as we remember that all of us need healing of one kind or another. Cause the fruit of the Light to grow in our lives, day after day. And inspire us to reach out to those who do not yet know your will. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A O Lord, as we pray for the whole Church on earth, we give thanks for those who have gone before us, many of whom suffered persecution and trouble so that we could receive the Gospel. Open our eyes to the blessings of being traditionally grounded. Inspire each generation to understand where to invest time, talents and treasures, so that we strengthen among us those things that abide unto eternity. Help us to be faithful in this generation. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the needs of the world. Guide our civic leaders with your wisdom, for the good of all. Strengthen them by inspiring them to take time for humble prayer. We remember and pray for those who are war-torn, and those who are exhausted, helpless, or grieving following disasters. Inspire all of us to be good neighbors, as we are able. Bless all who serve with honor in harm's way, and watch over their families, too. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for all who need healing in any way: *The Family & Friends of Larry Danley, Connie Coffman, Matt Coggin, Debbie Creamer, Melissa Dixon, Liz*

Greer, Dianna Houser, Lily & her family, Lucy & her family, Kimberly Long, Ruth Meyer, Tom Schamel, Mary Jane Seim, Dave Stevenson, Carolyn Stoffregen, and others whom we name in our hearts at this time (pause for silent prayer). Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

C **Trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERING

ANTHEM: *“Come Find Forgiveness and Love”* **Choir**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *“Create In Me”* (LBW pg. 96)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**


P Let us pray.

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things.

C **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION:**


***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. Ⓞ And al - so with you.



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

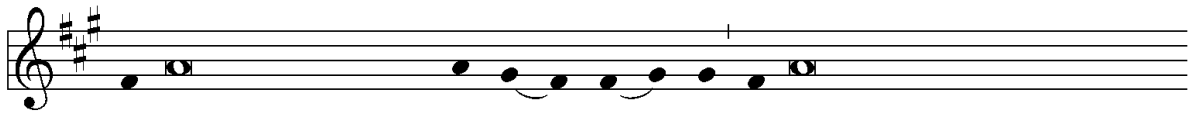


Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

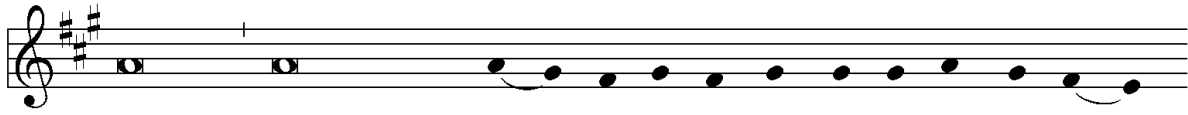


Ⓞ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

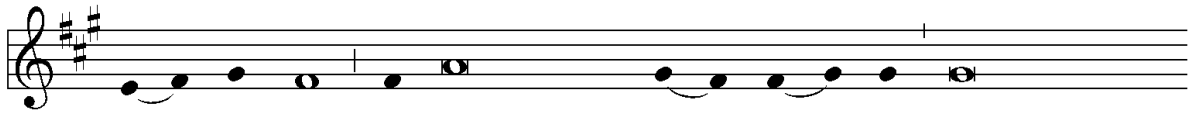
***PREFACE:**



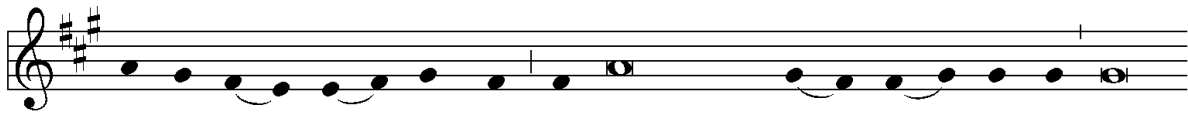
It is indeed right and sal - u - tar - y that we should at all times and in



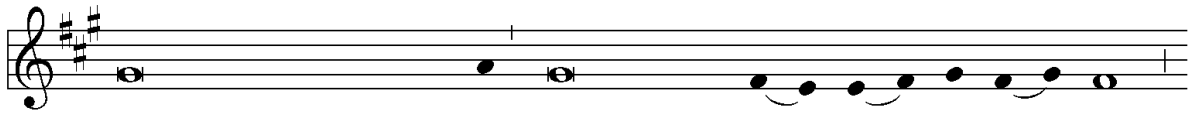
all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, ho - ly Fa - ther, through



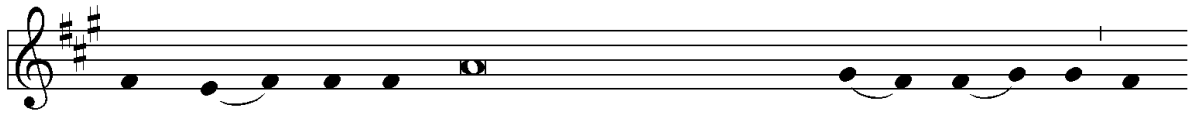
Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with



joy for the pas - chal feast. Re - new our zeal in faith and life, and



bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the chil - dren of God.



And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en, we



praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

***SANCTUS:**

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

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of Me.

***LORD'S PRAYER:**

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AND BLESSING OF CHILDREN

COMMUNION HYMNS: *“Lamb of God”*



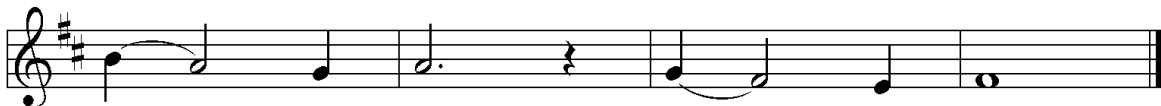
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

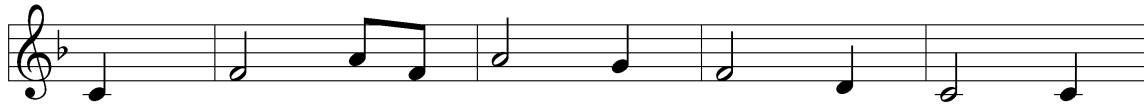


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Amazing Grace” (LBW 448)



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

“Rock of Ages” (LBW 327)



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

P Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

***THE BLESSING:**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

***SENDING HYMN: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (LBW 320)**



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

***DISMISSAL:**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS ARE BEING TAKEN—Please fill out the form on the back of this bulletin, and place it in the offering plate with your offering. ***DEADLINE for the orders is Sunday, April 2, 2023.***

EASTER CARDS ARE READY TO BE SIGNED!! The Easter Cards have been made and are ready to be signed by the congregation. Please take a few minutes over the next couple weeks to sign them. They are so appreciated by those who receive them!

Last Christmas the instrumentalists added a *Joyful Noise to the Worship and we'd like to do that again for Easter.* If you play an instrument and would like to play with the hymns on Easter morning at the **10:30** service, please let **Janet Burkett** know (**jksburkett88@gmail.com or 1-937-417-7664**) as soon as possible. We will rehearse after worship on Sunday, March 26 and again after worship on Sunday, April 2 (Palm Sunday).

Join us for Midweek Lenten services. The theme of these services is “Reflections on the House of the Lord (In the 50th year of Grace’s “new” Mission House)” - Celebrating the 50 years — from 1973-2023 — that we have been praising God in the building at **111 Lutheran Drive**. Join us on **March 22, and 29 for Midweek Worship Services.**

Soup Suppers on Wednesday evenings during Lent begin at 6:00 p.m. prior to our Lenten Worship services. We still have some spots to be filled on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex of the church. We will have *Soup and Bread*. If you bring soup, please bring it in a Crock Pot, due to the construction in the kitchen. Thank you for your help! The Board of Elders.

Easter Breakfast will be from 8:30 until 10:15 a.m. on Easter morning (4/9/2023). Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to check how you can help.

The Board of Elders invites you to join them for a ***Dayton Dragons ballgame*** at Day Air Ballpark on **Tuesday, May 30th, at 7p.m.** Travel arrangements will be made when the number of attendees is known. Tickets are expected to be \$12 or under. More information to come! The sign-up sheet in the narthex asks for name and number planning to attend.

The Board of Elders also would like to thank everyone who has donated any items for **Vancrest’s prize/gifts**. We will continue to collect those items in the basket on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions, you may contact any member of the Board of Elders — Carolyn Bradley, Connie Coffman, or Judy Schamel.

Opportunities for Prayer and Bible Study:

Join us on Sunday mornings in between services for a time of coffee & other goodies, fellowship, and a study on the lessons of the day.

Sunday Morning Adult Education & Bible Study between 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. worship. We study the lessons of the day when there is no theme study.

All are Welcome.

Youth Sunday School Corner: March, 2023

Here's what is coming up next in Grace Lutheran Sunday School:

Regular classes are held every Sunday from 9:30 AM -10:15 AM.

If you have a child who is ready to receive their **First Communion**, please talk to Pastor Hanson or Kelly Hanson. Classes may be offered in the spring if there is interest. Students will learn about the history and significance of Holy Communion, make communion bread together, and more. Parents (or grandparents) are invited to participate too.

Adult Bible Study

- ◆ **The Phoebe Women's Small Group Bible Study.** They meet at 7:00 p.m. on the **2nd Monday of each month**. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or email: Kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com).
- ◆ On the **Second and the Fourth Tuesdays of the Month, Wine & the Word** . They meet at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Carol Perry or Karen & Daniel Schultz (they switch off). If you would like to join this study, please contact Carol Perry at 937-456-6683 or cbperry122@embarqmail.com.

The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and is currently studying the **Proverbs**. Contact: Judy Hacker (937-456-6823).

These studies are open to any member and our friends. No prior Bible study background is needed. Please bring your Bible.

This Week at Grace Lutheran Church
111 Lutheran Dr., P.O. Box 86 - Eaton, OH 45320
Phone: 937-456-6258 Email: GraceEaton111@gmail.com
www.gracelutheranofeaton.com ~ ~ Like us on Facebook

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday -Friday: 10—1, 2—5

TODAY March 19, 2023— Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:00 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion

Monday March 20

Pastor's Day off

6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Meeting

6:30 p.m. Men's Disciple Group (Schamel's)

Tuesday March 21 - Homeless Shelter Meal –D. McKinney, D. Stoltz

3:00 p.m. TOPS (Catechism Room)

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

6:30 p.m. Men's Disciple Group

6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group

Wednesday March 22— MidWeek Lent 4

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (FH)

5:30 p.m. Choir

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. MidWeek Lenten Worship "*Lent 2023: Reflections on the House of the Lord*" "*Living Stones*"

Thursday March 23

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)

Friday March 24— PRODUCTION DAY

7:00 p.m. Movie Night—"*The Case for Christ*"

Saturday March 25

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild for March: Patty & Tom Barnes
Offering Counter for March: 3/15 & 3/19-Patty Barnes;
3/22 & 3/26—Wanda Winter; 3/29—Carol Perry

Sunday, March 19— Lent 4

	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Greeter:	Tom Barnes	Ron & Becky Lenk
Usher:	Tom Barnes	John Kiracofe
Lector:	Patty Barnes	Tiffany Ingram
Communion Assistants:	Janice Barnes	Debbie McKinney
	Patty Barnes Barb Myers	

Wednesday, March 22—MidWeek Lent 4

	7:00 p.m.
Greeter:	Barb Myers
Usher:	Barb Myers
Lector:	Barb Myers

Sunday, March 26— Lent 5

	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Greeter:	Gary Pemberton	Dean & Mary Shetter
Usher:	Gary Pemberton	Scott Stacy
Lector:	Nancy Childs	Mary Shetter

Attendance & Stewardship — (\$4,187 needed wkly)

3/8/2023	7:00 p.	48	\$
3/12/2023	8:00 a.	23	\$4,915.00
	10:30 a.	57	
3/15/2023	7:00 p.	42	\$ 245.00

Great Commission Outreach Partners:

World Mission Prayer League—Chris & Emily and family, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families, Allison— Campus Outreach, Abundant Grace, West Chester

Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund: The purpose of this fund is to extend the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation. To learn more about our Mission Endowment Fund, please contact the church office and we'll give your question to the appropriate person.

IN OUR PRAYERS

After 4 weeks we will remove names from this list. If you would like to keep someone on the list, please note their name on the back of the “Attendance & Communion Registration” form.

URGENT PRAYER LIST:

The Family & Friends of Larry Danley who was called to the Church Triumphant on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)

Connie Coffman: (As she recovers from back surgery)

Matt Coggin: (Son of Richard & Jane Coggin)

Debbie Creamer: (Cousin of Rob Dell)

Lily & her family: (Grand-daughter of close friend of Carol Perry)

Melissa Dixon: (Submitted by-Richard Coggin)

Liz Greer: (Dear friend of Kristen Hammons, High-risk pregnancy)

Dianna Houser: (recuperating from surgery)

Kimberly Long: (Friend of Linda Lambert and family)

Ruth Meyer: (Sister of Paula Murray—Recovering from stroke.)

Tom Schamel

Dave Stevenson

Carolyn Stoffregen: (Daughter-in-law of Marti Good-Ernst)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST ... Jan Spitler, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Susan Root, Fran Kester, Teddi Watkins, Ruth & Larry Hardin, Jenifer Combs, Jean Bailey, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Barbara Worley, Carolyn MacFadyen, Travis Howard, Judy Jay, Will Suggs, Earl House, Barbara Lakes, Becky Hoskins, Kayli Johnson, Joe McHenry, Tom Barnes: and those serving in the military: Capt. Love Hartman; Capt. John Ketteman; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; 1st Lt. Nicholas Webb, Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Brandon Leonard.



It's Easter Flower Time Again!
Deadline to order is
Sunday, April 2, 2023

Flowers available are Lilies and/or Tulips.
The price for each flower is \$11.00.

Please make your choice and the number of flowers you would like, figure up your total, then add a Dedication and Your Name.

Place this completed form (along with your flower donation) in the offering plate.

Checks may be made out to: GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH and in the memo section, mark it for "Easter Flowers".

Thank you.

LILIES (in 6" pot w/5-8 blooms) # _____ \$11.00/pot

TULIPS # _____ \$11.00/pot

Total Donation: # _____ X \$11.00 = _____

Dedication/For:

My/Our Name: _____

Please place completed form in the offering plate with payment marked "For Easter Flowers".

Last day to order — 4/2/2023

