

The First Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, February 18, 2024  
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](http://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: “The Glory of These Forty Days” (WOV 657)**

**\*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 God, through the covenant of baptism you give us new life for the sake of the world. Sustain us by your Holy Spirit, strengthen us in times of temptation and protect us from all evil;

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

**FIRST LESSON: Genesis 22:1-18**

A A reading from Genesis:

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup>He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and

worship and come again to you.” <sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together. <sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>12</sup>He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” <sup>13</sup>And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” <sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 25:1-10

A <sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

C **<sup>2</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

A <sup>3</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

C **<sup>4</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

A <sup>5</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

C **<sup>6</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

A <sup>7</sup>Gracious and upright is the LORD; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

C **<sup>8</sup>He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.**

A <sup>9</sup>All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

C **<sup>10</sup>For your name's sake, O LORD, forgive my sin, for it is great.**

## **SECOND LESSON: James 1:12-18**

A A Reading from James:

<sup>12</sup>Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup>Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup>But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup>Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. <sup>16</sup>Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

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: Mark 1:9-15**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent; 2/18/2024; Grace Lutheran Church; Pastor Dwight Hanson  
Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 25:1-10; James 1:12-18; Mark 1:9-15

Children's message: Do you notice anything different about the way the church is decorated today? (The color purple, and the cloth draped over the cross.) We have entered the 40 days of Lent, just as Jesus went through 40 days of testing in the wilderness, just as the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. So, each year, we take a 40-day journey to Jerusalem. And we will hear about all that God's Son has done for us. It's a powerful season of the church, and I'm glad that you're here to join in the journey. Let's pray...

### **Testing v Tempting**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.  
Genesis 22:1, "*After these things God tested Abraham...*" Mark 1:13, "*And [Jesus] was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan.*"

What's the difference between being tested and being tempted? Today's readings will also add the word "trial," but it seems to be included in testing. James 1:12, "*Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.*" So, we're back to our initial question of "testing" vs. "tempting."

We begin with the biblical insistence of James that though God may *test*, He never *tempts* (1:13). The good Creator of Heaven and earth seeks to make us stronger in all the ways that matter. It's the wicked adversary who has no good intentions.

As we consider the question of the day more deeply, let's look at the Scriptures that raise the issue in the first place. Genesis 22:1, "*God tested Abraham...*" There stood the father of faith, with his God-given son, Isaac. Abraham and Sarah had been through many ups and downs in relation to this miracle child of promise. They even tried to hurry the promise along by means of *their own plans*, involving a surrogate. While the blessing of a child was received in this way, he was still not the fulfillment of what God had promised. They would have to learn to wait and trust. What are two of the things that human beings are worst at doing? Waiting and trusting. Thus, spiritual healing begins right there.

The story of Abraham and Sarah—of divine grace received by faith, ever deepening in its trust—carries implications for the whole world, including us. Since the first human beings had broken faithfulness, healing would have to involve its restoration. God knows that the wellbeing of humanity rests in the human heart trusting God enough to lean on the everlasting arms. In fact, the Holy Spirit inspires us to do just that. The whole thing is relational, from start to finish.

Trust, holding fast to God's good promises, strengthens us for real life in a sin-broken world. This is where the testing comes. If a builder has made a ship for the purpose of sailing on the open ocean, there comes a time when he must put it out on the open ocean, right there amid the wind, waves, and worries (ship image from Sherman

Johnson, pg. 314, *The Interpreter's Bible*; Vol. 7).

In God's time, the miracle of Isaac was given to his awaiting parents. God, who can create from nothing, did so again. Then, in chapter 22, the boat was tested. The Almighty told the old man to offer back the child that had been miraculously given. Nothing about this Bible passage is easy. In fact, it's rather shocking. But we need to let it unfold, seeking to understand what's being said. Then we notice that God wanted it to be known by the reader that it was a test. The Lord meant well for this little family, through whom the whole world would be blessed. Abraham was prepared for the exam. He had learned the lessons of faith along the way. God could be trusted, completely. If the Lord spoke a promise, the old patriarch could rest in that promise and hold nothing back.

Pay close attention to what Abraham said to his servants. Genesis 22:5, "*I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.*" The original Hebrew makes it quite clear that *both* will return. A literal translation would be, "*and then we will return to you*" (Biblehub.com). In other words, Abraham had come, through thick and thin, to trust God's promise absolutely, so much so that he even trusted amid the seeming contradiction that lay before him. God would handle the matter, for the promise of the Lord can be counted on, lived for, leaned into.

As Abraham said to his son, "*God will provide for himself the lamb...*" (Gen. 22:8). And the Lord did. Also, here, at the beginning of the covenant of promise, we have a great foreshadowing of things to come, the very idea of the giving up of a precious child, and the certainty that God would provide the lamb. Fast-forward in time to John the Baptist, who looked at Jesus, God's Son, and said, "*Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" (John 1:29).

The legacy of Abraham and Sarah endured, that of faith tested amid the difficulties of life in a fallen world. This legacy became the foundation for Israel, right down to its fulfillment in the Messiah. Jesus, himself, faced off against evil in the wilderness. He attempted no shortcuts in the establishment of the Kingdom. He would trust and honor the Father, whether in the wilderness, or on the Sea of Galilee, or in the intense garden of prayer, or hanging, exposed and suffering, on a lonely hill, seemingly forsaken by everyone.



But our Lenten journey begins prior to that, in Mark 1:13: “*And [Jesus] was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan.*” If the Savior was going to deliver those who fell for temptation, did he not need to defeat the tempter, himself? Christ had to win the battle that all others had lost. And he did.

Now, a bit of a translation mystery. The word translated as “tempt” (from Greek: *peirazó*) can *also* mean “test.” It’s the same root word, just translated differently. And it needs to be translated differently. But on what basis? To answer that question, we must draw near to the heart of life, and to the heart of God.

How can one know whether some ordeal is a matter of testing or temptation? In terms of translation, one solid source says this: “*Context alone determines which sense is intended, or if both apply simultaneously*” (Biblehub.com/Greek/peirazó). Isn’t that interesting! And what is that all-important context? If it involves God, it’s a matter of testing, and the intended outcome involves something ultimately good for us. But if the adversary is at work, his goal is to move us away from goodness, away from God and His Word and the hope that’s ours in Christ. That’s temptation. In other words, spiritual discernment is required. Thankfully, God provides the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, as well as the Word to guide us.

And if the point today has somehow been lost in all this prose language, perhaps what we need is a poet. Today’s mysterious question was actually understood quite well by a poetic hymnwriter in 1787. In fact, we’ll sing it for our closing hymn today. Here’s the key verse: “*When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply. The flames shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine*” (LBW #507, How Firm a Foundation, vs. 3; credit: J. Rippon). This is the answer to the riddle.

God’s purposes seek the removal of *dross*, which is, by definition, “the scum that forms on the surface of molten metal” (Oxford Languages/Google). Separate the waste through heat, and remove it, leaving a purer kind of gold. Satan’s intention would be to remove the gold, itself, and leave nothing but dross. Not that it would be presented as such. Quite the opposite. Spiritual discernment must be aware of subtleties. Just because something is difficult doesn’t mean it’s automatically evil. God seeks your betterment, in, with, and under the trials of life. Satan seeks to destroy by any means possible, mostly by the smooth tongue of false promises involving shortcuts, never having to experience discomfort, the granting of every wish, “my will be done,” *until the deception comes crashing down*. Then comes real discomfort, with the awareness that pretend friends were actual enemies.

The very real spiritual battle that's ongoing in the world involves testing and tempting. Some people deny that these things are true, insisting that we've supposedly evolved beyond such primitive concepts. But the Lord Jesus was clear: "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly*" (John 10:10; RSV). God's testing leads to abundant life, making people strong in the power of holy trust. Satan's tempting is about destruction, the foolish reliance of the self upon its own ego, or some other false thing.

One quick note of clarification. When we're talking about the need to discern God's will in the middle of suffering, there's an appropriate time and place. If a person is gripping the sides of a hospital bed in excruciating agony, that's no time for a lecture. Prayer is always good. But also get medical help. Suffering isn't glorified for its own sake. We thank God for medicines and medical minds. There's mercy and healing in the easing of such pain.

What's being talked about today becomes clear when we pay attention to the biblical context. It's about spiritual testing, or temptation, or some combination thereof. Listen to the wisdom of St. Paul, "*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it*" (1 Cor. 10:13, RSV).

All of which brings us, inevitably, to the Lord's Prayer: "*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*" (Matthew 6:13). What's the way through temptation and trial? Being *delivered*. The root word there means literally "to draw to oneself" (*rhomai* / Biblehub.com). To be delivered from evil is *to be drawn close to God!* In this life, the threat isn't removed. Instead, God has joined us in the middle of the fray, drawing near to us, that we may draw near to Him.

Does your pathway lead through some dark valley? Get closer to the Good Shepherd. Sing his songs. Pray his prayer. Love his flock. He left his glory to bear our burdens, *with us* and *for us*. In his care, you can handle the cares of life.

"*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel*" (Mark 1:15). It's time to turn away from the tempter's lies, and trust the one who has only good in mind for you. Jesus loves you. He did for you what no one else could do, overcoming evil and the fallen world, opening the future in forgiveness. God's only Son came down, accepted the trial, and became the sacrificial Lamb. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: “*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*” (LBW 107)**

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869

**\*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, all that you have made is good. Yet this world lies under a shadow of temptation and destruction. Cleanse our hearts by the presence of the Holy Spirit, and renew us day by day in our baptismal covenant. Inspire the whole Church to understand the nature of the spiritual battle that is ongoing in the world. Draw us to the Lord Jesus so that we may be Christ-centered, and in his strength, able to endure the times of trial, ever mindful of his mercy. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** We pray, O Lord, for the needs of the world. For the persecuted, and for hostages. For peace in Israel and Ukraine, wherever there is trouble. We pray for our nation's civil servants in all branches of government, that they would seek your will and the wisdom that blesses the people. We pray for all who serve with honor, keeping the peace in harm's way. Protect them and their families. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** And we pray for all who need healing in any way: *Jean Bailey, Kierstyn Coffman, John Allen Coffman, Debbie Creamer, Matt Emrick, Barb Goebel, Carmen Hasdorff, Jeff & Laura, Amy Jackson, Amiyah Jones, Rachel & Kailyn Keathley, Marsha Kerr, Linda Lambert, Tim*

*Lanthrop, Karen Millikin, Judy Newkirk, Suzan Pauley, Mike & Judy Schamel, Dennis Steele, Jean Thomas*, as well as those whom we name silently in our hearts (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:**                    *“Lenten Meditation”*    **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. 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:**

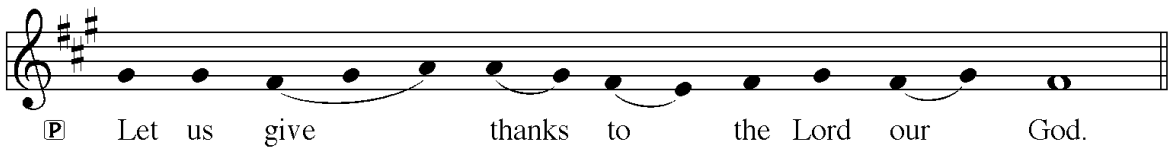
**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**



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



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

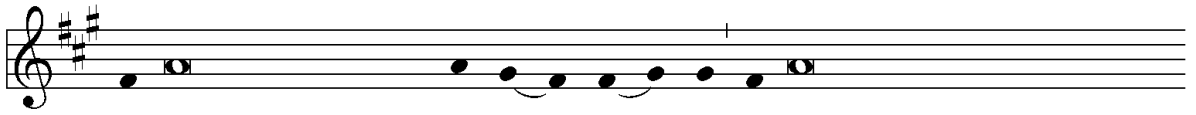


**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

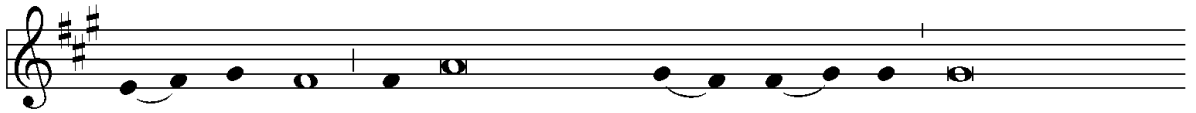
**\*PREFACE:**



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



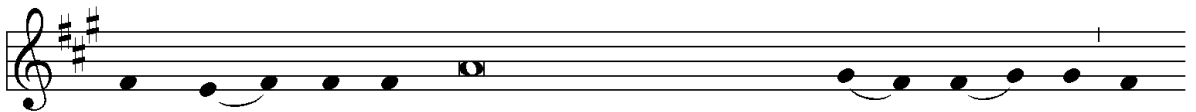
Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with



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:**



**C** 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”*



**C** 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.

## *“Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me” (LBW 333)*

## *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” (LBW 345)*

### \*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: *“How Firm a Foundation” (LBW 507)*

### DISMISSAL:

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Regarding Offering Envelopes:** Due to an upgrade in our accounts receivable software (Shepherds Staff), we are asking that if you use offering envelopes to please add your name on the outside. This will help the Financial Secretary to process the offerings more efficiently. Thank you.

**We begin the 40-Day Season of Lent.** Today is the first Sunday in Lent and on Wednesday, February 21, we will begin *Midweek Lenten services*. The theme of these services is “We Believe—The importance of the Creeds” on **Feb. 21 & 28; March 6, 13, & 20 at 7 p.m.**

**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 ask that you bring *Soup and Bread*, and/or set up & clean-up.

**Easter Breakfast will begin at 8:30 and end at 10:15 a.m. on Easter morning (3/31/2024).** Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to check how you can help.

Survey input requested (last day March 17):  
Forms are in the narthex by the collection box.

Topic: Discernment of worship service times.  
We are asking for your prayerful consideration to include the overall mission of Grace, now and into the future.  
Thank you!



*Coming Soon:*

### **Christian History: Reformation and Beyond**

Explore the roots of the past for a better understanding of today.

For example, where did the various denominations come from?

Class time/place: Sunday mornings, 9:30, in the fellowship hall.

Please sign up in the narthex for a printed study guide.

All are invited.

**GRACE AT A GLANCE**  
**Grace Lutheran Church**

111 Lutheran Dr., P.O. Box 86 - Eaton, OH 45320  
Phone: 937-456-6258 Email: GraceEaton111@gmail.com  
[www.gracelutheranofeaton.com](http://www.gracelutheranofeaton.com) ~ ~ Like us on Facebook

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday -Friday: 10—1, 2—5

**TODAY February 18, 2024— First Sunday in Lent**

8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Adult Education (FH)  
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
after worship Chili Cook-off/Competition for SMI/Haiti Rice & Beans Fund

**Monday February 19 — Presidents Day—OFFICE CLOSED**

Pastor's Day Off  
9:45 a.m. TOPS (Catechism Room)  
6:30 p.m. Men's Disciple Group

**Tuesday February 20**

6:00 p.m. Men's Disciple Group

**Wednesday February 21**

9:00 a.m. Bible Study  
5:30 p.m. Choir  
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper — Offering: HIT Cold Shelter  
7:00 p.m. MidWeek Lenten Worship

**Thursday February 22**

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

**Friday February 23—Production Day**

**Saturday February 24**

9:00 a.m. Card-Making, Baked Goods Baking, Quilt tying

## **Opportunities for Prayer and Bible Study:**

### **Sunday Morning Adult Education**

Classes are held most Sundays. We are studying the book of *Philippians*. Refreshments are served in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Adult Bible Studies (during the week)**

- ◆ **The Phoebe Women’s 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](mailto:Kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com)).
- ◆ On the **Second and the Fourth Tuesdays of the Month, Wine & the Word** and the **Bible Study “Lakeside Fellowship”** (at the home of Karen & Dan Schultz—in Lakengren).  
**Wine & The Word** meets at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Carol Perry). They have been viewing the first season of *The Chosen* and discussing it afterwards. If you would like to join them, please contact Carol at 937-456-6683 or cbperry122@embarqmail.com  
**Lakeside Fellowship** (at the Lakengren home of Dan & Karen Schultz) begins at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join this group, please contact Karen/Dan Schultz at 419-890-7965 or dkschultz52@yahoo.com.
- ◆ **The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m.** in the Meeting Room off of the Fellowship Hall. They are currently studying the Book of *Isaiah*. 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.**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Please keep us updated on prayer needs by calling the office or making a note on the back of your “Attendance & Communion Registration” form. Thank you.*

### URGENT PRAYER LIST:

#### **HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)**

**Jean Bailey:** (At Vancrest for rehab after a fall)

**Kierstyn Coffman:** (Prayers for testing & the flu)

**John Allen Coffman:** (Diagnosed with the Flu)

**Debbie Creamer:** (Cousin of Rob Dell—She has been diagnosed with liver cancer & has started chemotherapy)

**Matt Emrick:** (Son of Gene, Brother of Mark & Karen (Schaeff))

**Barb Goebel:** (Under Doctor’s care)

**Carmen Hasdorff:** (Rob & Suzie Dell’s sister. Prayers for healing)

**Jeff & Laura:** (Renee Kerr’s boss and her husband whose cancer has returned)

**Amy Jackson:** (Prayers for healing)

**Amiyah Jones:** (Great-granddaughter of Marti Good-Ernst — recovering from major surgery)

**Rachel & Kailyn Keathley:** (Granddaughters of Sonja Robertson—Prayers for peace & strength, love & calmness)

**Marsha Kerr:** (In hospital diagnosed with Lyme Disease and on IV Antibiotics)

**Linda Lambert:** (for healing and peace)

**Tim Lanthrop:** (Friend of Mt. Castle’s)

**Karen Millikin:** (Cousin of Elaine Fudge, Carolyn Pollitt & Chuck Storer—Karen has been transferred to Vancrest for Therapy)

**Judy Newkirk:** (She is dealing with health issues)

**Suzan Pauley:** (Dear friend of Nancy Childs’ as she deals with cancer)

**Judy Schamel**

**Dennis Steele:** (Brother of Mary & Dean Shetter, he is now home and receiving physical therapy there!)

**Jean Thomas:** (Dear friend of Karen & Dan Schultz—Prayers for healing, comfort & understanding)

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST**....Connie Coffman, Ruth Meyer, Martha Grimme, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Susan Root, Fran Kester, Teddi & Mike Watkins, Ruth 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: Maj. Love Hartman; Capt. John Kettelman; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Brandon Leonard; Alex Pollitt, U.S. Air Force.



**Lent 2024: We Believe**  
*The Importance of the Creeds*

2/21 Father & Creator

2/28 Who is Jesus?

3/6 The Righteous for the Unrighteous

3/13 The Strength and Unity of the Church

3/20 Life Everlasting



# CHILI COOK- OFF

**GET YOUR CHILI RECIPES BACK OUT ...  
WE'RE BRINGING BACK THE CHILI COOK-OFF / COMPETITION  
FOR SMI HAITI RICE & BEANS FUND**

**TODAY!!!!**

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

in the Fellowship Hall.

following the 10:30 a.m. worship service

Anyone interested in participating is asked to sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex.

Then, on **Feb. 18**, bring your pot of chili to the fellowship hall with your **name** and **type of chili** (If you'd like to share the recipe, please bring a few copies of that too!). Everyone in attendance will taste the chilis and vote for their favorites by placing loose change, bills, or checks in the containers provided. The 3 chilis that bring in the most money will win "bragging rights".