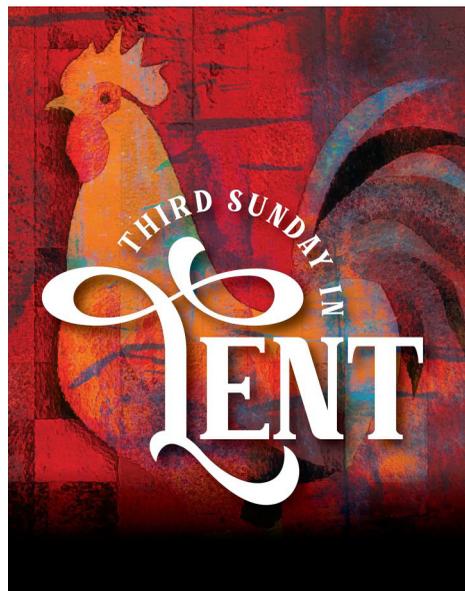


THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 8, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86

Eaton, Ohio 45320

937.456.6258

GraceEaton111@gmail.com—

www.gracelutheranofeaton.com

Pastor Dwight Hanson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

P - Presiding Minister

A - Assisting minister

C - Congregation

*** - PLEASE STAND**

Please be sure to turn off all electronic devices.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

***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 Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.**

***PEACE:**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

***GATHERING HYMN: "Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer" (LBW 343)**

***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.**

***KYRIE:**



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



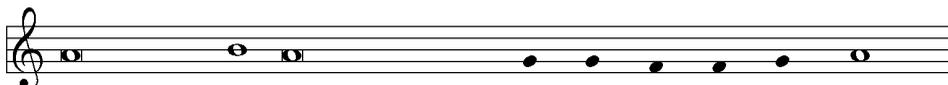
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

***HYMN OF PRAISE: “Glory to God” (LBW pg. 78-79)**



A Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav- en- ly king, al- might- y God and Fa- ther:



We wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo- ry.



Lord Je- sus Christ, on- ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a- way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.



You are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.



For you a- lone are the Ho- ly One, you a- lone are the Lord,



you a- lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho- ly Spir- it,



in the glo- ry of God the Fa- ther. A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P Let us pray:

P Holy God, you are the fountain of living water. Stir within us a renewed sense of the gift of your mercy, given through your grace in the waters of baptism. Give us this living water always;

C through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7

A A reading from Exodus.

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 95:1-9

A ¹Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

C ²Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

A ³For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

C ⁴In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.

***HOLY GOSPEL: John 4:5-30, 39-42**

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

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

⁵So {Jesus} came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." ²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with

her?” ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”

³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him.

³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson—Poured Into Our Hearts

3rd Sunday in Lent; 3/8/2026; Grace Lutheran Church; Pastor Dwight Hanson
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95:1-9; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-30, 39-42

Children's message: There was a mystery in the Bible today, a woman who had all the water she could drink, but was still, in some way, thirsty. Have you ever run around for a long time and gotten thirsty? Imagine doing that for a whole week! You'd be wilted and worn-out. Water is a basic need. Well, imagine a person forgetting about God for a whole day, or a week, or longer? That's a different kind of wilting. We need our prayers, and Bible verses, and each other, which is why we're here. And Jesus gives us a true fountain of life. Let's pray...

Poured Into Our Hearts

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. The last time these same wonderful passages were before us, we focused primarily on the woman at the well. Today, I'd like us to focus on Romans 5. What's fascinating is that *this* passage will *also* lead us to the woman at the well, *and to ourselves*, when spiritual and relational sufferings are not allowed to end in vain. Instead, they become a sort of school of adversity that results in honesty, faith, and joy at the discovery that our Savior, with all that he has done, has become the overflowing fountain of Life. Let's take our second lesson a verse at a time.

Romans 5:¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This may be just a single verse, but small can be mighty. Here we find justification, faith, peace, and that essential preposition, "through," as in "*through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Living water, indeed. Our inclusion in this blessing is based on the case Paul just finished in chapter four, as we turn back one page:

"...but {Abraham} grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was 'counted to him as righteousness.' But the words 'it was counted to him' were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:20b-25).

That's what brings us to Romans 5:1, "*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" We are in the Scriptures. God's Word is the only well from which we will ever be truly satisfied.

History is filled with the desperate search for peace of mind. And not just history. Perhaps you or someone you know is growing weary from the chase this very moment. The question, of course, has to do with where we're looking.

Understanding the heart of justification unlocks the whole thing. As Luther put it, “this is the real peace of conscience and trust in God” (pg. 285, “Lectures on Romans”; *Luther’s Works* [LW]; Vol. 25). Another Bible teacher added: “...peace with God points to the removal of the fundamental tension, running through all our life and extending to our relations with all things, which is dealt with only when God reconciles us to himself.” “That is why Jesus so sharply contrasted ‘my peace’ with the peace which ‘the world giveth’ (John 14:27)” (Gerald Cragg, pg. 452; *The Interpreter’s Bible* [TIB]; Vol. 9). In other words, not all wells are the same.

² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The fact that we *have obtained access*, and that we *stand* in grace, indicates “completed action” (Knox, pg. 453; TIB; Vol. 9). We have a hope of glory, in Christ, that we did not and cannot achieve. The basis upon which we will enter the everlasting gate and stand before the King involves a victory that’s already been won by another. To quote the Suffering Servant, “*It is finished*” (John 19:30).

What’s not finished is the earthly course of our lives, and the lives of others around us. Perhaps this is why our reading didn’t end at verse two. As it turns out, we also need verse three. St. Paul even goes so far as to introduce *suffering* as if it belongs on *the happy list*, yet another reason to “rejoice.”

³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

Unless I’m missing something, the Apostle is excited about the struggles—*and now, behind door number three!* Like some sort of prize. But how do we reconcile this positivity with the other words in the sentence, “suffering” and “endurance”? If the basis of the covenant of grace *has been sealed* in the person of Christ, *why* would any further suffering be warranted at all?

Because the salvation secured in Christ is *received* by faith, which is the trust of the heart. And such hearts reside within unsteady sinners. Christ is steady. We are not. The process by which we learn to trust more deeply, the process by which the great realizations of life break through to us, is tied directly to that word “endurance.” We learn as we go where the solid ground is found, typically after much toe-stubbing, stumbling, and the occasional face-plant.

And for the descendants of Adam and Eve, who have to *earn our bread by the sweat of our faces* (Gen. 3:19), a deep thirst builds, and we come to understand that there are wells whose only appeal rests in slick advertising, and then there’s a

fountain that gushes up to everlasting life. Simply put, we've got to go through enough things to show us what's what. In many ways, this is the meaning of life on earth. And when that light comes on, we begin to understand how Paul could rejoice even in suffering. For that's what it took to roll away the stone from his heart, with just enough reminder lessons along the way.

It's quite the school we're talking about! Now, if we get down on ourselves because we feel like we have to keep learning the basics, just remember that God loves to teach the basics. In John 14, Jesus promised ongoing assistance: "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you*" (14:16; ESV).

As it turns out, we need the full journey, including the hard parts, but we also need to be led by our Good Shepherd, and aided within by the Helper, the Holy Spirit. Then grace sufficient meets honest and humble trust, born of a realization of need. Then comes the joy that this world does not know.

Dr. Gerald Cragg summed up verse three quite nicely: "In a basically hostile environment, hardship would merely break our spirit; it would be insupportable if we felt that at the end of the day the determining forces in our world were antagonistic or even indifferent. But peace with God involves, among other things, an acceptance of our place in an order which is providentially governed by God. In that case we are able to see the value of what would otherwise seem to be only the assaults of blind adversity: 'we know that all things work together for good to them that love God' (8:28; cr. RSV)" (pgs. 454-55; TIB; Vol. 9). "The second lesson of adversity is that...Experience is cumulative; one discovery provides the point of departure for the next" (Cragg, pg. 455; TIB; Vol. 9). Which leads directly to verse four:

⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, Yes, "hope" was already mentioned in verse two. Why would it turn up again here in verse four, but this time as a result of the learning of many hard lessons? I'll let Luther answer this one. By the time he lectured on Romans, he had seen enough of human nature, how easy it was to fall for counterfeit hope: "For their hope was not a real hope, but a perverse presumptuousness, a confidence in their own works and their own righteousness" (pgs. 291, 292, LW; Vol. 25).

Real hope shows itself in the end, for when all the idols have fallen, there's one living Lord who still stands, even he who will come again to judge the living and the dead, he who will make us new. Jesus is, was, and always shall be the

source of Life. The shaky part has always belonged to us, which is why Paul rejoiced even in sufferings, for it was there that he learned to depend solely on Christ and not himself.

⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Do you ever struggle with shame? What “shame” can we face in this life that our Lord Jesus didn’t bear on that cross? Accused of lying, stripped of all modesty, publicly mocked, whipped almost beyond recognition, and finally crucified, he took the whole load, yours and mine. He has loved you from the beginning of time, and still does. Trust him with all that you’ve got.

Luther emphasized the point about the love being poured into us: “*Into our hearts,*” he wrote, “that is, into the depths and the midst and center of our hearts, not on the surface...” (pg. 294, LW; Vol. 25). Why would we need to have such love poured directly into our hearts? Because of weakness that too often parades as strength. Which brings us to the last few verses:

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—

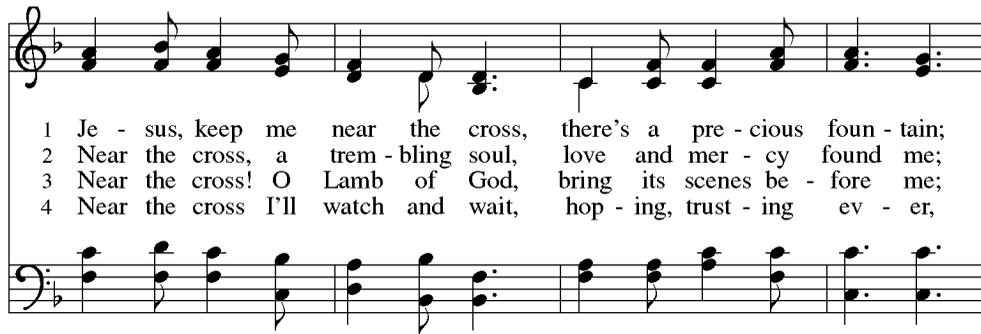
though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

For whom would you lay down your life? Think about that as an honest question. Can you come up with, perhaps, a handful of people? Now go back and ponder the verses we just read. One last quote from Dr. Cragg: “The full wonder of the divine love is apparent only when we compare it with the best that we are willing to do for one another” (pg. 458; TIB; Vol. 9). Jesus laid down his life for all, even while we were “enemies” (Romans 5:10).

Let’s pull this all together. When the great journey through this world comes to an end, it will be clear that the landscape is dotted with wells. But there’s only one fountain that gushes up to eternal life. You may drink of it, freely, *as a gift*. In fact, it can be received in no other manner. Humility, honesty, faith, and the woman at the well, would have it no other way. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” (ELW 335)**

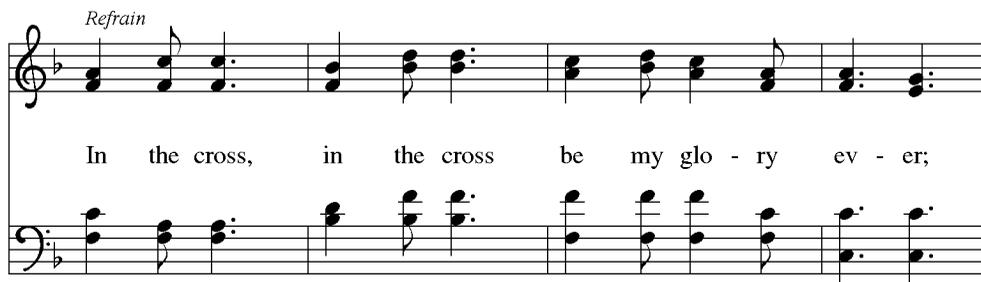


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

***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:

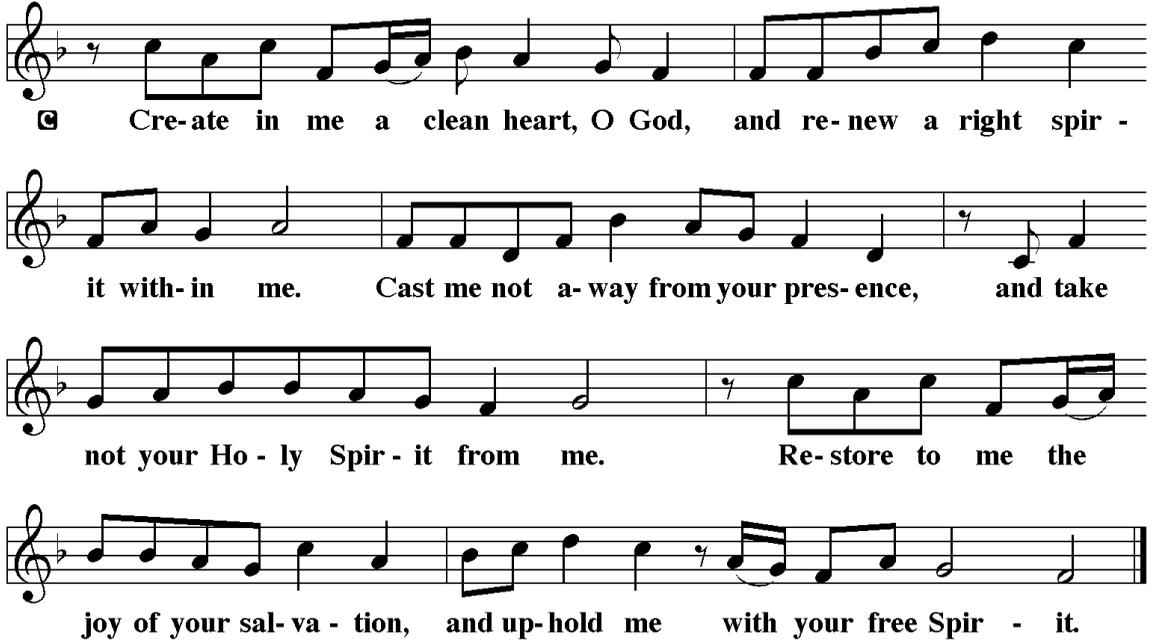
A Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you that Jesus came down to walk among us with redeeming love. Draw our full attention to the cross of Christ, and the necessity of it. Like the Samaritan woman, open our minds to truth, even when it isn't flattering. And open our hearts to the gracious love of Jesus. When we grow weary from the tough terrain of this world, pour out the Holy Spirit like living water, so that we may receive grace, forgiveness, and renewal, again and again. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the whole Christian Church on earth to be mission-driven. Inspire us to share the story of all that the Lord has done for us. Bless this congregation in all faithfulness. Bless and keep Bishop Selbo and staff, our Mission District, NALC Disaster Response, and our outreach partners: Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries; Abundant Grace of West Chester; Chris, Emily and family and the World Mission Prayer League; and all other helpful partners. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY: *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*



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.**

***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.**

***BLESSING:**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C Amen.

***SENDING HYMN:** *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (LBW 499)*

***DISMISSAL:**

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

POSTLUDE

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Liturgy reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22413. All hymns used by permission of CCLI License #44125 or are in the Public Domain. The English Standard Version is published with the permission of Good News Publishers. ([English Standard Version - The Holy Bible Online](#))

**Schedule of MidWeek Worship for Lent:
Lent 2026: Thirsty for God**



**Five Lenten Wednesdays
Feb. 25—Mar. 25**

Wed., Mar. 11 ~ *The Wise Consider, Remember, & Proclaim*

Wed., Mar. 18 ~ *Like a Thirsty Deer*

Wed. Mar 25 ~ *The Spring of the Water of Life*

Maundy Thurs., Apr. 2 ~ *This Cup*

Good Fri., Apr. 3 ~ *The Cup that He Drank*

6:00 PM Simple Soup Supper

7:00 PM Vespers

The Ohio Mission Region

“Not Ashamed”—of the Gospel! (Romans 1:16-17), May 1 & 2 – Grove City, OH

All are invited!

Registration materials in the narthex – due in church office by Easter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGN-UP TO SPONSOR A HOMELESS SHELTER MEAL FOR 2026

There is a **sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can contact Kelly Mt. Castle to sign up (937-336-1223)**. The board of elders thanks you for helping with this very important ministry. ***There's just 1 slot left!!!***

CALLING ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS TO JOIN IN EASTER WORSHIP



On Easter Sunday, instruments will play with the organ and the congregation during the first and last hymns. Would you like to join us? We will **rehearse on Saturday, April 4th at 10:30**. Please talk to **Janet Burkett** so that you can pick up your music and have your questions answered. Everyone who plays is welcome.



This month the Family Dinner & Game Night is Fri., Mar. 13, 2026 this month's dinner is a St. Patrick's Day theme and we'll be serving Irish Stew with all the Fixin's. Dinner begins @ 6 p.m. & Game Night @ 7 p.m. We'd love it if you could bring a **dessert to share!** (Something green of course!!!) Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Bring a friend or two!
Caed Mile Failte!! (a Hundred thousand welcomes!)

The Greeting Card Ministry invites One and All to help assemble Easter Cards We will meet on **Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.



This time, we are doing something a little different ... We are assembling beautiful Easter cards using a colored bulletin cover and enclosing a signature page, preparing envelopes and applying postage. These cards will be sent to **friends, families, shut-ins, first responders** and **military personnel associated with Grace** in time for Easter. We look forward to seeing you and your friends on March 15th as we work together to share God's love with our community of faith!

Sunday, March 15th is: "Bring your Favorite Casserole— Lunch Fest"!

Following the Service, salad & dressings, bread & dessert will be provided. Bring in your favorite Casserole so we can all share. (Bring your recipe too!) There is a Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



SPRING CLEANING @ GRACE

10:00 a. March 21, 2026

Meet at 10 in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and goodies. then off to clean the church — Bring cleaning supplies and any equipment that we might not have at the church.



We have started taking Easter Flower Orders. The deadline to receive these orders is **March 22nd**. You'll find order forms in the bulletins/narthex, and if you need to order but don't have an order form, you can call the office (937-456-6258) or email it to (graceaton111@gmail.com).



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild for March: Patty & Tom Barnes

Offering Counter for March: 3/4 & 3/8—Wanda Winter; 3/11 & 3/15—Carol Perry;
3/18 & 22—Jane Coggin; 3/25 & 3/29—Patty Barnes

Sunday, March 8—Lent 3

9:30 a.m.

Greeter: Bryan & Amy Jackson

Usher: Bryan Jackson

Lector: Barb Myers

Wednesday, March 11—Midweek Lent 3

7:00 p.m.

Greeter/Usher: John & Janice Barnes

Lector: John Barnes

Sunday, March 15—Lent 4

9:30 a.m.

Greeter: Linda Lambert

Usher: Gary Pemberton

Lector: Debbie McKinney

Communion: Janice Barnes, Wanda Winter

Wednesday, March 18—Midweek Lent 4

7:00 p.m.

Greeter/Usher: Scott & Nancy Parkinson

Lector: Scott Parkinson

Sunday, March 22—Lent 5

9:30 a.m.

Greeter: Jeff & Lisa Kiracofe

Usher: Jeff Kiracofe

Lector: Tiffany Ingram

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

03.01.26	9:30 a.m.	88	\$4,343.00
03.04.26	7:00 p.m.	??	\$ 351.00 (SMI/Haiti Rice & Beans)

Great Commission Outreach Partners:

World Mission Prayer League—Chris & Emily and family, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families, 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:

HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)

Jim Carlisle: (Healing from hip surgery)

Rob & Suzie Dell: (Having health issues)

Randy Foust: (Janice Pearce’s son-in-law—recovering from successful back surgery)

Barb Goebel: (She is at Maple Gardens for rehab)

Amy & Bryan Jackson: (for comfort and healing)

Bernard Lehman: (Brother of Janice Pearce (no rel. to Dick) Healing of Pneumonia

Richard Lehman: (He is healing at home)

Barb Orr: (Friend of Debbie McKinney —Dealing with multiple cancers)

Shirly Roby: (Grandma of friend of Kelly Coffman—Recovering from surgery on a brain bleed)

Gordon Self: (Kelly Coffman’s father—recovering from surgery)

Justin Shetter: (Dean & Mary’s son—He is a reservist called back into duty)

Jackie Steiner: (Seeing a new Huntington’s Disease doctor)

George & Barb Suggs: (Dealing with health issues)

Wayne Williams

LONG-TERM PRAYER LISTSally Mowell, Connie Martin, Maggie Risko, Rhonda Paige Atkinson, Amy Jackson, Andy Proeschel, Judy Newkirk, Mike & Judy Schamel, Suzan Pauley, Barb Goebel, Carmen Hasdorff, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Susan Root, Fran Kester, Teddi & Mike Watkins, Ruth Hardin, Jenifer Combs, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Barbara Worley, Carolyn MacFadyen, 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 Ketteman; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Alex Pollitt, Airman, U.S. Air. Force.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY:

Fellowship & Education

Following Worship—Refreshments for all are served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on Sundays.

- **Youth Sunday School classes** meet @ **10:30 a.m.** — in the Sunday School music room (Education wing) and start with songs and prayer, then go to the adjacent classroom for our lesson. Bring a friend! Parents are always welcome.
- **Adult Education**— Following 9:30 a.m. worship, the adults meet to discuss the lessons of the day. Coffee and snacks provided.
- **Every other Sunday— Sunday S'mores @ 6:00 p.m.** —a Middle School- & High School-aged Youth Sunday Evening Ministry. Friends are welcome. Tina Ebright is the moderator and she can be reached at 937-472-5663.

Adult Bible Studies (during the week)

- **The 2nd Monday of each Month — 7:00 p.m.—The Phoebe Women's Bible Study.** They are studying— ***“Living with Defiant JOY”*** a six-session study. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or email: kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com).
- **The 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the Month:**
 - * **6:00 p.m. — Wine & The Word** — this group shares a light meal (at the home of Carol Perry). They are studying Acts—Part 1. If you would like to join them, please contact Carol at 937-456-6683 or cbperry122@embarqmail.com
 - * **7:00 p.m. — Lakeside Fellowship is held** at the Lakengren home of Dan & Karen Schultz. If you would like to join this group, please contact Karen/Dan at 419-890-7965 or dkschultz52@yahoo.com.
- **The 2nd Tues. of each month — 5:30 p.m. — FOR MOMS . . .** They are studying a 6-session Bible Study for MOMS — **Mom Set Free by: Jeannie Cunnion.**
- **The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study — 9:00 a.m.** — meets in the Meeting Room off of the Fellowship Hall. They are studying the ***minor prophets.***
- **The 3rd Thursday of each month — 2:00-4:00 p.m. — “Graceful Fiber Guild”** — **meets** in the Fellowship Hall or the adjacent meeting room. Bring a craft you've been working on or just come to learn a new craft. Everyone is welcome to join us! Our next meeting is ***Thurs., Mar. 19th.***

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

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Third Sunday in Lent – March 8, 2026

“²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him. ³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony”

- John 4:28-30, 39a -

God has blessed my husband and me with three kids. Each of my deliveries had to be via Caesarean section, so when the time came to deliver my third child, I knew fairly well what to expect. I knew I would have to stop eating and drinking. The thing is, I had been in the hospital for ten days on bed rest because our daughter tried to make her debut earlier than was considered safe. Once I made the mark of 36 weeks, Antonia could arrive with fewer risks than if she tried to come at 34 weeks. I was 36 weeks, and I had leftovers from Olive Garden in the hospital fridge. I could tell I was beginning to go into active labor, but by golly, I wanted my leftovers because I was very pregnant and hungry, and I knew I wouldn’t be eating for a while once I was prepped for surgery.

So, I scarfed down my food quickly and then let my nurse know of my current condition. Sure enough, she asked when I last had anything to eat or drink, and then she instructed me not to eat or drink anything else. I felt satisfied that I beat the system this time around... well, almost. I was so excited about eating my food, I forgot to gulp down my cold Diet Coke. And suddenly, it dawned on me. I was thirsty! It would be about four hours before I could even have ice chips. What I would have given for a drink of lukewarm water at this point!

The woman at the well didn’t realize how thirsty she was—thirsty for Jesus’ salvation and forgiveness. The other Samaritans from that village didn’t realize their spiritual thirst either. That is, until they came and listened to Jesus. Jesus stayed with them for two days, teaching them about his Father. Samaritans, including the woman, believed Jesus to be the Messiah once they recognized their spiritual thirst. And as they came to believe in Christ, their thirst was quenched.

Sometimes we forget just how much Jesus Christ, the Living Water, quenches our spiritual thirst. Maybe we read a devotion, hear a sermon, or sing a particular hymn, and then through those means, we recognize we’re thirsty once again. We hear the words of promise, forgiveness, salvation, and our thirst is quenched through Jesus Christ. Come and see! Thirst no more!



It's Easter Flower Time Again!

Deadline to order is:
Sunday, March 22, 2026

Flowers available are *Lilies* and/or *Tulips*. The price for each is = \$13.00

Please make your choice and the number of flowers you would like, figure 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.

I would like to order # _____ Lily/Lilies (in 6" pot w/5-8 blooms

I would like to order # _____ Tulips

Total Lily Donation: # _____ x \$13.00 = \$ _____

Total Tulip Donation: # _____ x \$13.00 = \$ _____

Dedication/For: _____

My/Our Name: _____

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



Last day to order --- 3/22/2026