

## Grace Lutheran Church

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# First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021



## Preparing for Divine Service

As you prepare for God's action in your life today, set aside the busy-ness and distractions of your everyday routine. We invite you to

- in your Bible or Hymnal, read through today's appointed psalm: **PSALM 25:1-10**
- Review today's Scripture readings in the bulletin
- Focus on the Lord in prayer. Sample prayers are on the inside front cover of the hymnal, or feel free to use our usual pre-service prayer:

### Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

*Please feel free to participate further in this modified service  
by reading aloud the lines in bold marked for congregational participation*

**Invocation**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

- P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

**Opening Sentences**

*Mark 14:38; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Corinthians 10:12–13*

- P Jesus said, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”  
C **Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**
- P Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.  
C **God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**

**† Confession and Absolution †**

- P The wages of sin is death,  
C **but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- P Let us confess our sins to God, who has brought us out of slavery and promises to lead us to the promised land of heaven.

*A moment for silent confession.*

- P Heavenly Father, we know that we are blessed when we are steadfast under trial. But in our weakness we fall prey to the devil’s schemes and give in to temptation. We are lured and enticed by our own evil desires—desires that contradict your good and gracious will.

**C For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(In Service Absolution)*

**P** May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## † Service of the Word †

**Entrance Hymn**

**“On Eagles’ Wings” vs. 1 & 4**

**LSB 727**

**1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: “My refuge,  
My rock in whom I trust!”**

### *Refrain*

**And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**4 For to His angels He’s given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. *Refrain***

**Kyrie**

*James 1:18; Psalm 102:1, adapted*

**P** Lord, have mercy.

**C Christ, have mercy.**

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.**

P O LORD, hear our prayer.

C **And let our cry come to You!**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky, and then you asked him to sacrifice his only son. Then You provided a ram as a substitute sacrifice.

C **Open our eyes to how You provide for us, especially in tough times when everything looks so wrong.**

P Strengthen us to hold tightly to the promises that are “yes” for us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 22:1–18*

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” <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 am I, 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 am I.” <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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

Mark 1:9–15

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



**C** 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 opening 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

**Hymn of the Day**

**“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”**

**LSB 423**

**Sermon**

**“Something’s Wrong, God”**

*Genesis 22:1–18*

**Nicene Creed**

**C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Lord's Prayer**

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

O God, our Father, the One who fulfills His promises and gives the crown of life to those who believe, we thank You for keeping Your promises, even when it meant the death of Your one and only Son, Jesus. We thank You that in spite of all of our wrongs, You give us forgiveness freely.

C **Guide us on our pilgrimage through this life to the life You have promised, so that together with all of Your saints we may celebrate the feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C **Amen.**

<b>Closing Hymn</b>	<b>“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”</b>	<b>LSB 657</b>
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## Sending

P Go in Peace; serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

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