

Lent 1

February 18, 2024



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word for this Week

"If God loves us, why doesn't He remove all the trials and tests and temptations that we face?" That question demonstrates the religious assumption that those things are always bad. They aren't. In the hands of a loving God, they are tools by which He refines our faith. He uses tests as a way to compel us to be less self-reliant, and instead to trust in His strength. He uses trials to teach us that this broken world is not our true home. God even takes Satan's temptations and uses them for our good. Proof is that God allowed His beloved Son Jesus to face trials and temptations, so that He might be our perfect Savior and Substitute. We gather once again here in God's house to listen to Him.

Before Worship

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.

General Information

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall.
Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment
and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall.

Serving in Worship

Music: Rachel Halldorson
Ushers: Mike Jensen, Kurt Knurr
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson
Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922
Pastor's Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

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text to 520-236-9673

T-Loop Hearing Assistance

If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal ear-buds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.



WORSHIP SERVICE

525 *The Lamb*

CW 525 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3

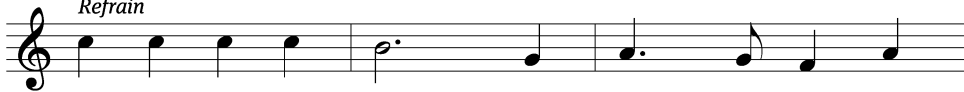


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
so still, his will, on our be - half the law to fill.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Tune: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Text and tune: © 1987 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11133502

Stand

Opening Blessing

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Verses / Confession & Absolution

After His baptism, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fighting Satan and fighting against temptation.

Likewise we spend 40 days in Lent, fighting Satan, fighting his lies, and learning discipline from how Jesus defeated our greatest foe.

May this time of repentance, renewal, and growth in spiritual discipline equip and empower you to fight any battles that might come your way.

Grant us your Holy Spirit, Lord, and be with us always.

Bless us O Lord, with your amazing grace, as we humbly gather to worship Jesus Christ – the Lamb of God.

Amen.

Scripture encourages us to “fight the good fight of the faith” (*2 Tim 4:7*) and to “put on the full armor of God” (*Gal 6:11*) that we may take our stand against evil in every form. God has given us all that we need to serve Him, and to resist sin and evil . . . yet we have grown weak, we have been lazy, and we have been unprepared in this struggle. We have failed Him, in a million different ways, and we know it. We have been wounded by our own sins and the sins of others. Therefore we confess before God:

We feel the pain of our guilt. We have been wounded by our mistakes. We have listened to the lies of the Enemy and have hurt ourselves and others. We have strained our relationship with our Lord and have fallen down in our service to Him and all those around us.

525 The Lamb

CW 525 sts. Ref, 4

4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.

He lives, for - gives, he gives me his own right - eous - ness.

Refrain

Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his

own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Lamb'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a '4' time signature. The lyrics are: '4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.' The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'He lives, for - gives, he gives me his own right - eous - ness.' The third staff is labeled 'Refrain' and has lyrics: 'Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his'. The fourth staff concludes the refrain with lyrics: 'own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

Thankfully we have a High Priest who can actually sympathize with our weaknesses, for He was tempted in every way, just as we are – yet He was without sin. (*Heb 4:15*) The Law requires everyone to be cleansed with blood, for without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

(*Heb 9:22*)

Therefore, Christ was sacrificed once, to take away the sins of us all (*Heb. 9:28*) and by that sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (*Heb. 10:14*) Now hear the proclamation of your Savior, made through His called servant and at His command: Your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father, the Son \dagger and the Holy Spirit.

Amen. We have been made perfect forever in His blood, and we are being transformed by His power as God the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and lives.

525 *The Lamb*

CW 525 sts. Ref, 5

5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.
His song pro - long till ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.
Refrain
Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his
own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Lamb'. It consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.' The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'His song pro - long till ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.' The third staff is marked 'Refrain' and has lyrics: 'Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his'. The fourth staff concludes the refrain with lyrics: 'own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but He did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in His resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by His mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

First Reading

Genesis 22:1–18

¹Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”
“Here I am,” he replied.

²Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love— Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

⁹When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹²“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Psalm 25

Red Hymnal

Refrain



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

Psalm tone



To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;*
in you I trust, O my God.

**Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,*
for they are from of old.**

**Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;*
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O LORD.**

Refrain

**Turn to me and be gracious to me,*
for I am lonely and afflicted.**

**Look upon my affliction and my distress*
and take away all my sins.**

**Guard my life and rescue me,*
for I take refuge in you.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Seasonal Verse for Lent

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin.

¹²At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

526 What Wondrous Love Is This

CW 526



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm



this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse
 down be-neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown
 Lamb, who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme,
 free, I'll sing his love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty



for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
 for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
 I will sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Sermon

Mark 1:14-15 "God has sounded the ALARM!"

396 Christ, the Life of All the Living

CW 396 sts. 1, 7

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
7 Then, for all that wrought my par - don, for thy sor - rows

death, our foe, who, thy - self for me once giv - ing
deep and sore, for thine an - guish in the gar - den,

to the dark - est depths of woe: through thy suf - f'ings,
I will thank thee ev - er - more, thank thee for thy

death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
groan - ing, sigh - ing, for thy bleed - ing and thy dy - ing,

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
for that last tri - um - phant cry and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Ernst C. Homburg, 1605–1681, abr.
Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Heavenly Father, You loved the world and gave Your Son to free us
from sin and death by His obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without Your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank You for the treasure of the gospel. By Your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases You, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By Your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in Your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Hear us Lord as we bring to You the people and the issues that weigh upon our hearts . . .

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

Setting Six (American) from Christian Worship

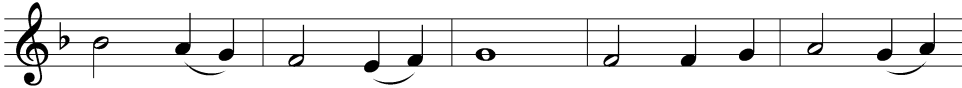
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1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God. All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Uncorked

Our next community outreach event (Bible Uncorked) will be held at Los Pinos Winery on Thursday, February 29 from 6 - 8 pm. Speak with Mike for more information. Be sure to personally invite a friend! (A sign up sheet for RSVP is posted by the kitchen.)

Upcoming Schedule

Feb. 21	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Feb. 22	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class
Feb. 23	10:30 am	Parables Bible Class (Grace)
Feb. 23	11:30 am	Men's and Women's Lunch Out
Feb. 25	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Feb. 28	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Feb. 29	6 - 8 pm	<u>Bible Uncorked</u> (Los Pinos Winery)