



Lent 2

February 25, 2024



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ***God's Word for this Week***

We know that the cross was an instrument of torture and execution. However, Scripture also uses the term “cross” to refer to any suffering that one endures because he is believer: the painful denial of the desires of the flesh; ridicule and persecution from unbelievers; etc.

Today, Jesus asks us to rethink suffering under the cross. It is not pointless pain. Our crosses are not how we pay for sin. Jesus already did that on His cross. Our crosses are not redemptive, but they are constructive. Any suffering unbelievers face is only bad, a foretaste of worse to come. But the suffering believers face under the cross is only good, a way Christ connects us tightly to Himself with fire-tested faith.

## ***Before Worship***

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.  
For personal preparation for Communion, see Red Hymnal: p.156.

## ***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.  
If you need special assistance for communion, please notify an usher and/or the pastor.

## ***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](mailto:grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com)

## ***Church Information***

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Prayer Requests: [prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com) / 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 earbuds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.*



# **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION**

*817 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart*

CW 817

- 1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart;  
I pray thee, ne'er from me depart,  
with tender mercy cheer me.  
Earth has no pleasure I would share;  
yea, heav'n itself were void and bare  
if thou, Lord, wert not near me.  
And should my heart for sorrow break,  
my trust in thee can nothing shake.  
Thou art the portion I have sought;  
thy precious blood my soul has bought.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
forsake me not! I trust thy Word.
  
- 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas thy rich bounty gave  
my body, soul, and all I have  
in this poor life of labor.  
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place  
may glorify thy lavish grace  
and help and serve my neighbor.  
Let no false doctrine me beguile;  
let Satan not my soul defile.  
Give strength and patience unto me  
to bear my cross and follow thee.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
in death thy comfort still afford.

3    **Lord, let at last thine angels come,  
to Abr'ham's bosom bear me home  
that I may die unfearing;  
and in its narrow chamber keep  
my body safe in peaceful sleep  
until thy reappearing.  
And then from death awaken me  
that these mine eyes with joy may see,  
O Son of God, thy glorious face,  
my Savior and my fount of grace.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
and I will praise thee without end.**

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin M. Schalling, 1532–1608  
Text: Public domain

*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.

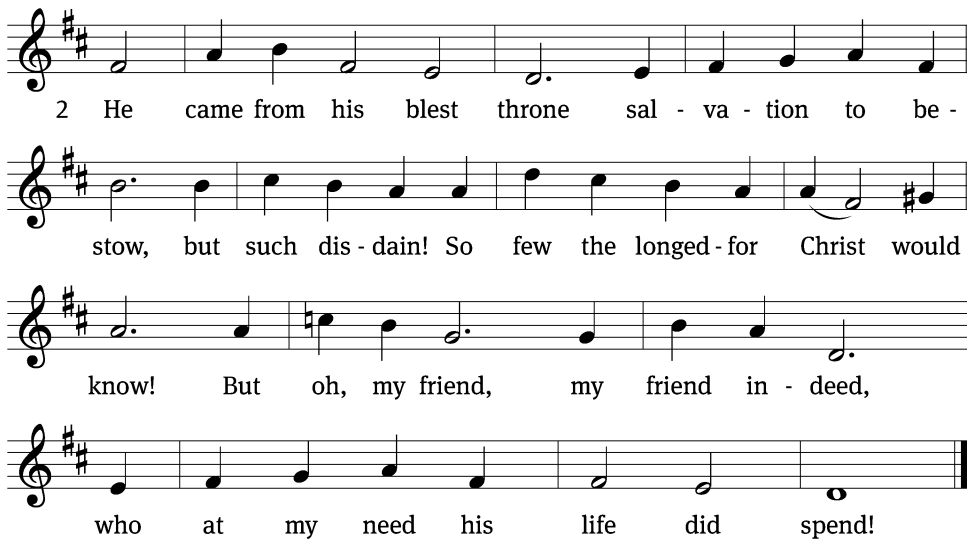
**Grant us your Holy Spirit, Lord, and be with us always.**

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

**Amen.**

### 397 *My Song Is Love Unknown*

CW 397 st. 2



2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
stow, but such dis - dain! So few the longed - for Christ would  
know! But oh, my friend, my friend in - deed,  
who at my need his life did spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683, alt.

Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962

Text and tune: Public domain

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.**

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 + 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. We follow Christ – cross now, glory later.**

7 Here might I stay and sing; no sto - ry so di -  
vine, nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like  
thine. This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could glad - ly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683, alt.  
Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962  
Text and tune: Public domain

## THE WORD

### *Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray:

Almighty God, You see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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*

<sup>13</sup>One day when Job’s sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, <sup>14</sup>a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, <sup>15</sup>and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

<sup>16</sup>While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

<sup>17</sup>While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

<sup>18</sup>While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, <sup>19</sup>when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

<sup>20</sup>At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup>and said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,  
and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;  
may the name of the LORD be praised.”

<sup>22</sup>In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.



## ***Psalm 22***

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?**

I am a worm and not a man,

**scorned by everyone, despised by the people.**

All who see me mock me;

**they hurl insults, shaking their heads.**

“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,

**“let the LORD rescue him.”**

All my bones are on display;

**you lay me in the dust of death.**

A pack of villains encircles me;

**they pierce my hands and my feet.**

They divide my clothes among them

**and cast lots for my garment.**

But you, LORD, do not be far from me.

**You are my strength; come quickly to help me.**

## ***Second Reading***

Romans 5:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup>Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup>For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup>Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### ***Seasonal Verse for Lent***

Mark 8:34

**Jesus said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."**

### ***Gospel Reading***

Mark 8:31–38

<sup>31</sup>He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup>But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>34</sup>Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up

their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup>What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup>Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup>If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

## 702 *Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake*

CW 702



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my  
 2 "I am the light, I light the way, a god - ly  
 3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your  
 4 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord and take the



way a - bid - ing; de - ny your-selves, the world for - sake,  
 life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day,  
 soul's sal - va - tion, your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,  
 cross ap - point - ed and, firm - ly cling - ing to his Word,



o - bey my call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -  
 I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and  
 from sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge  
 in suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, take my ex - am - ple for your guide.  
 well I show how you must so - journ here be - low.  
 of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."  
 bat - tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677, abr.; (st. 3): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695

Tune: Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## ***Sermon***

Mark 8:31-38 *“It’s the CROSS – or it’s HELL.”*

### ***Nicene Creed***

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## ***Offering***

### ***Prayer of the Church***

Gracious Lord, according to Your will and promise, You sent Your Son into our world to atone for sin and restore eternal life. You planned His path to the cross, and He followed it perfectly. Your Spirit led Him to endure the temptations of Satan, but He triumphed. Your own people rejected His message, but He persevered. He confronted the blindness of unbelief, the confusion of doubt, and the hurt of death but was not deterred as He proclaimed Your kingdom to the least, the last, and the lost.

**Guide us to follow Christ by faith as we walk the road of temptation and trial. Spare us from falling into Satan’s traps, and teach us to use Your Word as a weapon to fight against all devilish lies and deceptions. When we fall—and we surely will—lift us up again with Your forgiveness and grace.**

As we hear and contemplate the holy record of our Savior’s passion and death, use the sharp message of the law to empty us of pride and self-reliance. Humble us as we view the Savior in His humility, remembering and believing that He endured the cross so we might be freed from its horror. In His suffering show us our healing, in His grief show us our joy, and in His death show us our life.

**Protect all who are bearing the cross of persecution and disdain.**

Supply Your power to those fighting temptations and addictions.  
Watch over all who are sick and suffering in body, mind, and heart.  
We pray especially for children who are abused, forsaken, or ignored.

**Comfort all Your troubled people with the sweet peace that only  
Jesus can bring.**

Hear our prayers, Lord, for the sake of Jesus, whose journey to the cross we remember during the days of Lent. Comfort and strengthen us by His life and death on our behalf, and thrill us as we look forward to celebrating His victory on Easter.

**Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by His death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise  
Your holy name and join their glorious song:

### **397 My Song Is Love Unknown**

CW 397 st. 1

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly  
be. Oh, who am I that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'My Song Is Love Unknown'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to'. The second staff continues: 'me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly'. The third staff continues: 'be. Oh, who am I that for my sake'. The fourth staff concludes: 'my Lord should take frail flesh and die?'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with clear note heads and stems.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683, alt.  
Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962  
Text and tune: Public domain

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks to You, O God, through Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom You sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through Him you made all things; in Him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill Your promises, He stretched out His hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in You.

In accordance with Your command we gather as a family of believers who have been instructed in the teachings of Your Word and who stand united in doctrine. We acknowledge that your children are found wherever the Gospel is proclaimed, but we also understand that to commune together is expressing a deep unity that must be established through the study of Scripture. As communicant members of this flock, we approach the Altar with humility and thanksgiving.  
**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.**

### ***Words of Institution***

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\dagger$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."



Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\dagger$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### 665 *What Is This Bread*

CW 665 sts. 1–3



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	that	I should



ris - en	from	the	dead:	this	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	the	cup	of	grace
live	and	he	should	die	un - der	the	rod?



this	life	we	take,	was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
brings	his	em - brace		of	life	and	love	un - til	I	
My	God,	my	God,	why	have	you	not	for - sak - en		



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, b. 1946

Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, b. 1951

Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11133502

## ***Distribution***

*Grace Lutheran Church follows the practice of close communion. This means that all our members are in agreement with the teachings of our church body. We welcome members of our church synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to partake of the Lord's Supper with us today. We respectfully and lovingly ask that other visitors speak with our pastor after the service if there are any questions about this practice.*

## ***Thanksgiving***

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
**His mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in You and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## ***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.**



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and  
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my  
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,  
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on  
 Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are  
 scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your  
 winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,  
 not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,  
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;  
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is  
 God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and  
 you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and  
 swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!  
 friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.  
 clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.  
 heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

#### Acknowledgments

Setting Seven (British) from Christian Worship

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ***Bible Uncorked***

Our next community outreach event (Bible Uncorked) will be held at Los Pinos Winery this 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.)

Please note: The Revelation class is on hold this week.

## ***Easter For Kids***

Rebecca is planning a special MWM for Easter on April 4 at the regular time (10am-11am). If you know people with kids or have a place you can post an advertisement, please let her know.

## ***Bible Classes***

Please consider participating in one (or more) of our weekly classes – Genesis on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm / Revelation on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. The monthly Parables class on the last Friday of the month (10:30 am at Grace) with the men’s and women’s lunch out to follow at 11:30 am.

## ***Maundy Thursday***

Pastor is seeking your feedback on the following question: Do we have a separate Maundy Thursday service at 6 pm, or do we simply do a Good Friday service at 6 pm with Communion. If there’s sufficient interest in the additional service he’s happy to provide it.

## ***Upcoming Schedule***

Today	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)
Mar. 3	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Lent 3 Worship