

Lent 3

March 3, 2024



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word for this Week

Person A never attends worship. He can't see the point. Person B attends every week out of a slavish sense of obligation. Her mind wanders during the services, for she views the activities of worship merely as tasks for her to complete. Who is worse off? Rather than debating the point, let us just admit neither understand the true worth of worship.

Many think worship is about what we do for God. It is, in fact, the other way around. As we gather around Word and Sacrament, the Spirit moves us to love and trust in God above all things. Moved by the cross of Christ, we bow down before our God. We commune with Him. And that's exactly what God wants.

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: Josiah Kroll, Art Kutschied
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson
Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922
Pastor's Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

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Prayer Requests: 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

808 Drawn to the Cross

CW 808



1 Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed with heal - ing
2 How well you know my griefs and fears, your grace a -
3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; let noth - ing
4 To pledge my la - bor will - ing - ly, which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, to find in you my
bused, my mis - spent years; so now to you with
of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing through your
sweet a ser - vice be that an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
cross and pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928, alt.

Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

Text and tune: 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.

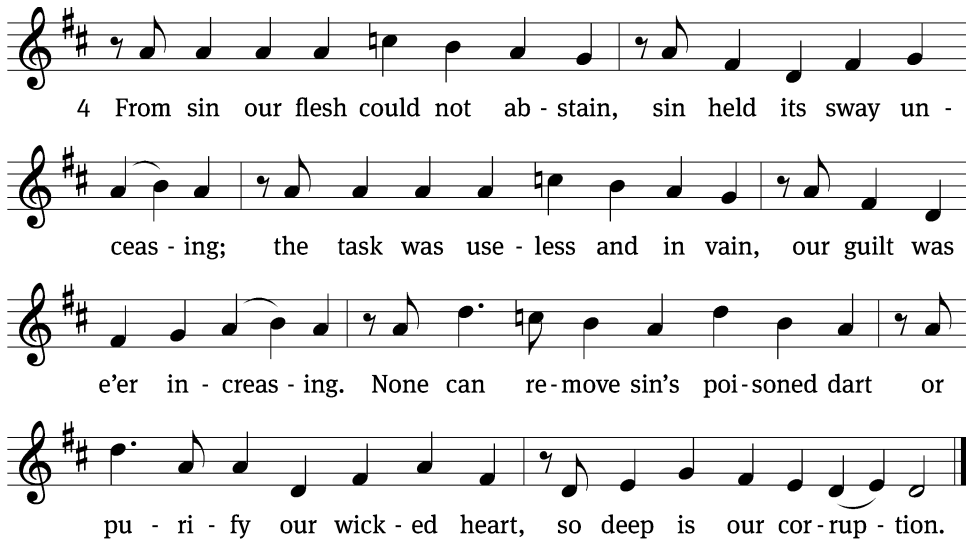
Grant us your Holy Spirit, Lord, and be with us always.

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

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.



4 From sin our flesh could not ab-stain, sin held its sway un-
 ceas- ing; the task was use- less and in vain, our guilt was
 e'er in- creas- ing. None can re-move sin's poi-soned dart or
 pu- ri- fy our wick- ed heart, so deep is our cor- rup- tion.

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.

558 Salvation unto Us Has Come

CW 558 sts. 1, 9



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and
9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone and rests in him un -



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and
ceas - ing; and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who
hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; works



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.
serve our neigh - bor and sup - ply the proof that faith is liv - ing.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr., alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; 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

Exodus 20:1–17

¹And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

19C Lord, You Have the Words of Everlasting Life

Psalm 19C

Refrain

Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

Tone

The heavens declare the glo- / ry of God;
the skies proclaim the work / of his hands.
Their voice goes out into / all the earth,
their words to the ends / of the world. *Refrain*

The law of the LORD is / perfect,
refresh- / ing the soul.
The commands of the LORD are / radiant,
giving light / to the eyes.
They are more pre- / cious than gold;
they are sweeter than / honey. *Refrain*

**May these words of my mouth and this meditation / of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my rock and my Re- / deemer.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Acknowledgments

Setting Eight (German) from Christian Worship

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His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

Gospel Reading

John 2:13–22

¹³When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

432 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken

CW 432 sts. 1-4



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law have you bro - ken
 2 They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!



that such sharp sen - tence should on you be spo - ken?
 with cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge you;
 It is my sins for which you, Lord, must lan - guish;
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;



Of what great crime have you to make con -
 they give you gall to drink, they still de -
 yes, all the wrath, the woe that you in -
 the Mas - ter pays the debt his ser - vants



fes - sion, what dark trans - gres - sion?
 cry you; they cru - ci - fy you.
 her - it, this I do mer - it.
 owe him, who would not know him.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Johann Heermann, 1585-1647

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

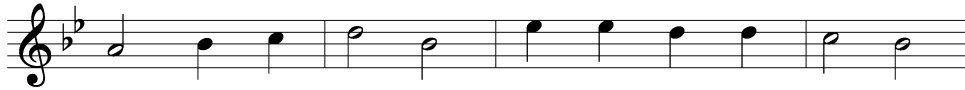
John 2:19-22 "Crazy . . . or . . . Credible?"

432 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken

CW 432 sts. 5-7



5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness,
6 I'll think up - on your mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,
7 And when, dear Lord, be - fore your throne in heav - en



the sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;
that earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;
to me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,



we for - feit - ed our lives, yet are ac -
to do your will shall be my sole en -
where sweet - est hymns your saints for - ev - er



quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.
deav - or hence - forth for - ev - er.
raise you, I too shall praise you.

Offering

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.**

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 & Closing Blessing

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.



1 The mys-t'ry of the cross I can-not com-pre-hend,
2 By your per-fect sac-ri-fice I've been brought near.



the ag-o-nies of Cal-va-ry.
Your en-e-my you've made your friend.



You, the per-fect Ho-ly One, crushed your Son, who
Pour-ing out the rich-es of your glo-ri-ous grace, your



drank the bit-ter cup re-served for me.
mer-cy and your kind-ness know no end.



Refrain
Your blood has washed a-way my sin; Je-sus, thank you.



The Fa-ther's wrath com-plete-ly sat-is-fied;



Je-sus, thank you. Once your en-e-my, now



seat-ed at your ta-ble; Je-sus, thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Uncorked

Thanks to all who participated in this event, pray God would bless it!

Edie Knell has a new cell number: 972-689-8108 *give her a call!*

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 / Easter Sunday

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. Please reply to the email that was sent out if you’d be able to attend both.

Please sign up for the Easter brunch at 11 am by the kitchen.

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Lent 3 Worship
Today	11:00 am	Potluck Lunch
Today	11:30 am	Council / Ladies of Grace
Mar. 6	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Mar. 7	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy
Mar. 7	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class
Mar. 10	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Mar. 13	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Mar. 14	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class