

LIFTED UP to SAVE

*And as Moses lifted up the
serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be
lifted up, that whoever
believes in him may have
eternal life.
John 3:14-15*

LISTEN TO
HIM
LENT 2024

Lent 4

March 10, 2024



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word for this Week

While not every religion uses the word “sin,” they all embrace the concept in some way. So, most every religion offers a solution: a set of laws, a moral code, a path to more enlightened behavior. What do they have in common? We are to solve sin through human effort. *Be better! Try harder!* This is the heart of every false religion. Those who (correctly) understand they will never overcome their sin are crushed by guilt. Those who ludicrously believe they have defeated their sin are killed by pride. **True** religion offers a better way—one that frees us from guilt and has no room for pride. Jesus teaches that the solution to our sin is not to work harder. It is to *trust* in the work He has done for us. Salvation comes through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ.

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

Church Information

Address: 6788 FM 115 - Scroggins, TX 75480
Phone: 903-860-3749
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Email: GraceNearTheLake@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/GraceNearTheLake1
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 WITH COMMUNION

811 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

CW 811



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart;
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran-sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; take all my
my zeal in - spire! As thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide. Bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll, blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran-somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

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. We are by nature sinful.

394 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

CW 394 st. 1

1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, sin - ners, ru - ined
by the fall; here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
flows to you, to me, to all, in a full, per -
pet - ual tide, o - pened when our Sav - ior died.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

394 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

CW 394 st. 4

4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'tis a soul - re -
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er
break his cov - e - nant of blood, signed when our Re -
deem - er died, sealed when he was glo - ri - fied.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'tis a soul - re -'. The second staff continues: 'new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er'. The third staff continues: 'break his cov - e - nant of blood, signed when our Re -'. The fourth staff concludes: 'deem - er died, sealed when he was glo - ri - fied.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Grant, O merciful Lord, to Your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; 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

Numbers 21:4–9

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Psalm 32

Read responsively

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to You

and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

And You forgave the guilt of my sin.

You are my hiding place;

You will protect me from trouble.

Many are the woes of the wicked,

but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in Him.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1–10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Gospel Reading

John 3:14–21

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

570 God Loved the World So That He Gave

CW 570 sts. 1-4, 6



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the
6 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.; Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, Stettin, c. 1778
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

John 3:19-21 *"Heliophobia"*

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.

Prayer of the Church

O Lord, our God, we thank and praise You for offering Your Son to be the sacrifice for all of our sins. In Christ crucified we find grace, peace, and power to keep going in the struggle against sin and evil.

We praise you for every grace and blessing; for showing us the highest form of love, for living and dying for us, for coming to life again, and giving us new life.

Strengthen your Holy Church, the invisible gathering of all believers, throughout the world. Let us, your children, bring the comforting and life-giving message of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus to lost souls everywhere.

O Dearest Savior, bless our journey through the season of Lent. Our sins caused your agony in the Garden. Our evil mistakes nailed you to the accursed tree. Help us to see both our sins, and your wondrous love that brought about our salvation. Strengthen us in that truth that we may fight every battle, knowing that we are already champions in your blood.

Strengthen our visible fellowship of believers, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, that we may overcome the challenges that face us and hold strongly to your Word of Truth, no matter what attacks come up against us. Send us out as your ambassadors into this unbelieving world to bring healing and salvation to lost souls.

Keep us in your family, O God. Help us treasure the forgiveness and love you pour out upon us. May we freely forgive others as you have freely forgiven us. May we fight hard to bring the Gospel message to souls wherever they may be. May we reflect your pure love in every aspect of our lives. We follow Christ: cross now; glory later.

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

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.**

Offering

THE SACRAMENT

Preface

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:

935 All Glory Be to God on High

CW 935 st. 3

3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son, be - got - ten of the
Fa - ther, your sav - ing death has made us one with God and
with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to you on high in
our dis - tress we sin - ners cry: have mer - cy on us, a - men!

Text: tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546
Tune: attr. Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546
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Tune: Public domain

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.

935 All Glory Be to God on High

CW 935 sts. 1-2



1 All glo - ry be to God on high and thanks for all his
2 We praise and laud and wor - ship you; we give you thanks for -



fa - vor; no harm can touch or ter - ri - fy a child of
ev - er, O Fa - ther, for your rule is true and just and



God for - ev - er. God shows his good and gra - cious will and
chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, your might - y reign ful -



grants his peace, the world to fill; all strife at last has end - ed.
fills what - ev - er you or - dain; Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!

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.

Song of Simeon

CW 951

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.

Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989

Text and tune: Public domain

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 the saving gifts of Word and Sacrament. We pray that through them 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.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
 pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
 there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in ___ that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Text: Melody Green, b. 1946

Tune: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt.

Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music/Ears To Hear Music/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ., admin.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Outreach Event + Members

We're planning another event for children and families this spring – a Grace Fun Day. It's tentatively planned for Saturday, May 4th. Please speak with Mike if you want to be involved or let us know if that date won't work out for Grace or for our volunteers.

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

Pastor had a chance to connect with Kris Martinson and he asked to pass along his love and greetings to everyone at Grace. If you'd like to send him something it can be sent to: Kris Martinson ID # 87102510 c/o Unit Federal Medical Center – PO box 15330, Fort Worth, TX, 76119.

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. So far we've only had 2 people request and commit to both services. The elders decided we'd proceed with both services if we get 10 people.

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

A Look at our Church Library

On Giving Advice to God - Part 1 & 2

Wanting to strengthen your devotional life? Are you looking for something meaty that challenges your spiritual growth? "On Giving Advice to God" Parts 1 & 2 by Daniel Deuschlander is available in the church library for you to check out. Developing the theme "The Wisdom of God and the Foolishness of Man", the author reminds the reader how far God's wisdom goes beyond our human thoughts and understanding. Part 1 takes us from Advent through Ascension, following along the church year and the familiar accounts of Scripture we've come to anticipate year after year. The insights you are sure to gain will deepen your understanding and appreciation for God's wisdom and magnanimous love! Part 2 takes us through Pentecost and beyond. Once you get into it, you may even be tempted to buy a copy for your own personal library because you will want to come back to this again and again - one read through is not enough! It makes a great couples' devotion too, and offers plenty of discussion opportunities each time. Your devotional life will never be the same!

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Mar. 13	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Mar. 14	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class
Mar. 17	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Mar. 20	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Mar. 21	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy
Mar. 21	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class
Mar. 24	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Palm Sunday Worship
Mar. 27	all day	Genesis Bible Class on hold
Mar. 28	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship?
Mar. 29	6:00 pm	Good Friday Worship
Mar. 31	10 / 11 am	Easter Sunday Worship + Brunch