



Grace Lutheran Church
March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

Pastor Sean O'Neil
Organist, Kathy Painter



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

We are grateful you chose to worship at Grace and hope that you will experience the joy of God's life-changing love today. Whether looking for a church home, curious about the Christian faith or just visiting, you are welcome here. If you are visiting for the first time today, we would be honored if you would sign the guest book located in the Narthex.

Grace Lutheran Church was established in 1905. After a century in Fort Worth, we remain energized by our mission to pass on the faith, serve our community, worship God, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray your time with us today will inspire and challenge you to live out your faith in daily life and join us as we live out our mission to serve God, our neighbors, and to proclaim the gospel.

Holy Communion

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Happy Birthday Scott Manning!

Happy Anniversary Linda and Tom Lee!

We will have guitar services on March 15 and March 22.

Prayer Requests: Larry Nava, Kristin Klade, Grace and George, Brian (requested by Eng), Beverly Becker, Fleeta Miller, Pastor Robin (requested by Susan)

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Confitemini Domino

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community
Music: CONFITEMINI DOMINO, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical
hospitality
you grant to all people.
We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.

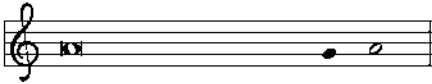
Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

***Gathering Song** Lift High the Cross - ELW 660

Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be
with you all.
- C **And also with you.**

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



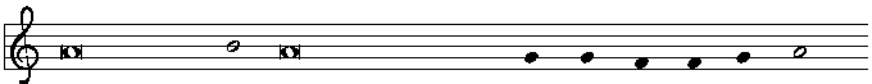
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

Canticle of Praise: Glory to God



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.

Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.** (*be seated*)

WORD

L First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 121

¹ *I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?*

² ***My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.***

³ *The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.*

⁴ ***Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;***

⁵ *the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;*

⁶ ***the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.***

⁷ *The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.*

⁸ ***The LORD will watch over your going out and your
coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.***

L Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (**please stand*)



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: **John 3:1-17**

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴

Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.** (*please be seated*)

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day Blessed Assurance - ELW 638

Apostles' Creed (**stand*)

A We confess the faith in which we were baptized.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

(If you are unable to stand or kneel for the prayers, feel free to be seated during this time.)

(After each petition of the prayers:)

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.** (*share the peace*)

MEAL

Offering

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1972-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

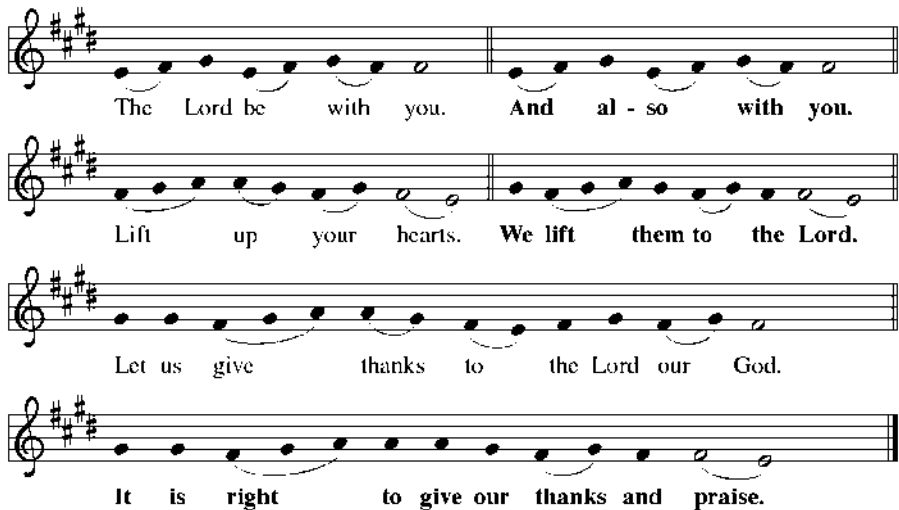
A Let us pray,

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

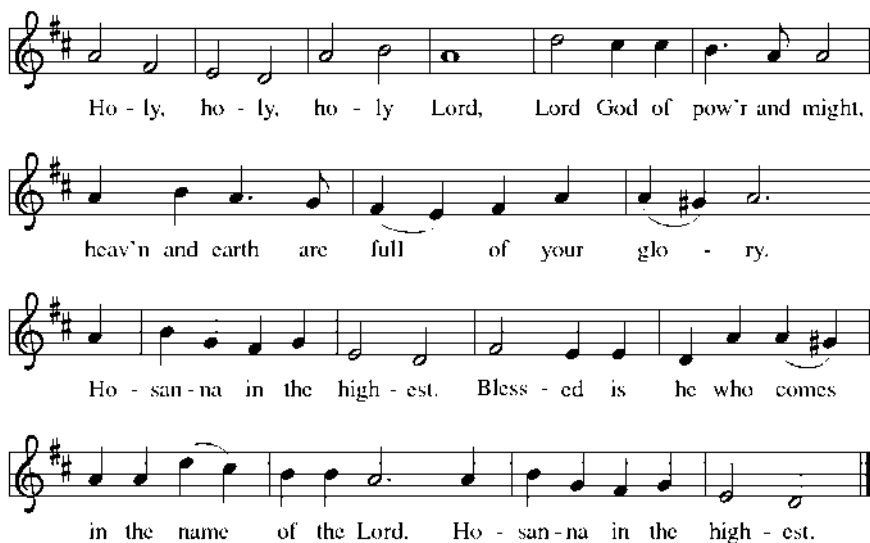
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P It is indeed right. . . we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:**

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

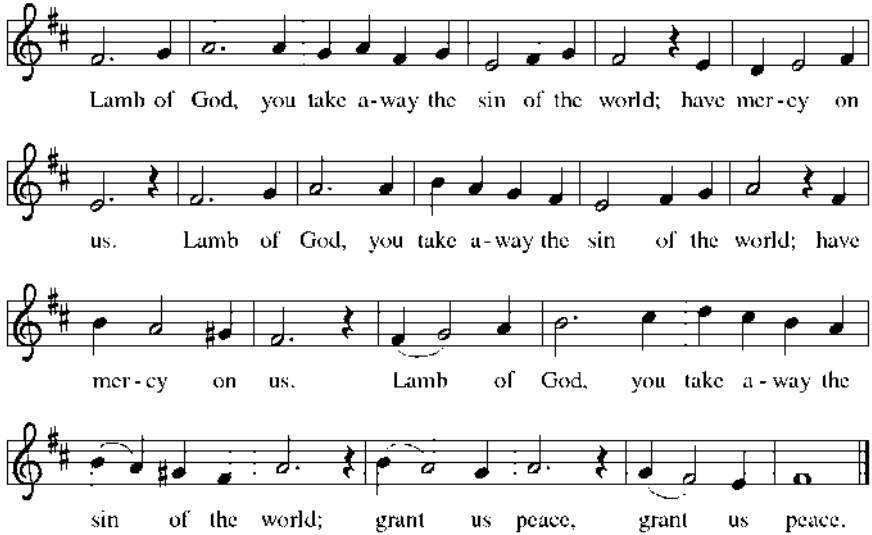
The Lord's Prayer

P Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

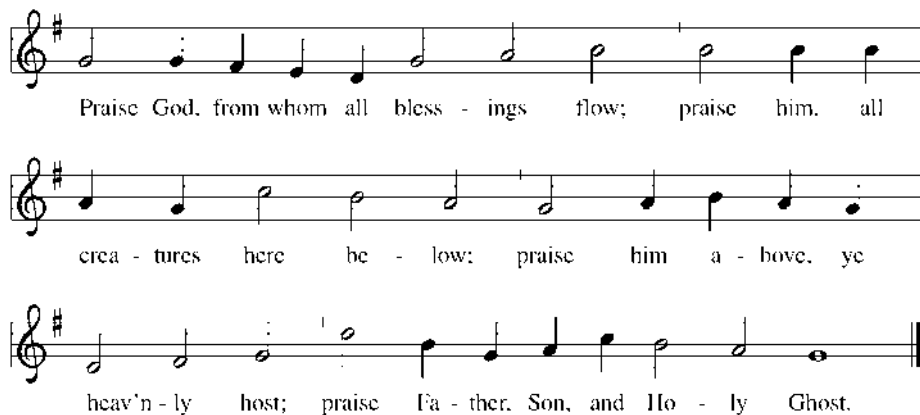
Table Blessing (**please stand*)

P The body and blood... grace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDRETH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our
souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the
journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace

Amen.

***Sending Song** Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross -

ELW 335

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

Thank you to all who serve:

Altar Guild: Mary Ann Manning and Lynn Parks

Ushers: Greg Ruff

Assistant: JoAnn Chambers

Lector: Jessica McKeown

Counter: David Buland

Upcoming Commemorations

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633

Sunday, March 1, 2026

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

Monday, March 2, 2026

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater. From sundaysandseasons.com.