

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 1, 2026 – The Second Sunday in Lent  
8:30 Bulletin

## LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The word “Lent” conjures up a variety of images and feelings and is often understood as no feasting, no parties, no fun, and a requirement to go to confession, fast on certain days, and give up something for the season. Figuring out what to “give up” is often a challenge and many people get stuck here, but the ultimate purpose of Lent is to strengthen our spiritual lives. During this time, we are asked to quiet down our busy lives and pray more to consider the ways we need to repent, or in other words, to turn around and become closer to God. Taking on a spiritual practice, giving alms, and helping those in need during these forty days are ways that we may prepare ourselves for the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The liturgical color is purple.

## OPENING HYMN: We Walk By Faith, And Not By Sight

*Please stand as you are able*

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no  
2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 that, when our life of faith is done, in  
gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as  
fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound, to call on you when  
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you  
none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.  
we re - jice; and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near, and seek where you are found:  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

## ACCLAMATION *BCP p. 355*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

**KYRIE** BCP p. 356

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

*This Week's Reader: **Cheryle Kahl** † Next Sunday: **Karen Davenport***

**FIRST READING** Genesis 12:1-4a

*Please be seated*

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show



you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I 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."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

*Reader*    The Word of the Lord.  
*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 121**

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the \**

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;\*  
**from where is my help to come?**

<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the Lord,\*  
**the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved\*  
**and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**

<sup>4</sup>Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel\*  
**shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>The Lord himself watches over you;\*  
**the Lord is your shade at your right hand,**

<sup>6</sup>So that the sun shall not strike you by day,\*  
**nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;\*  
**it is he who shall keep you safe.**

<sup>8</sup>The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,\*  
**from this time forth for evermore.**

## **SECOND READING** Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. 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. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL** John 3:1-17

*Please stand as you are able*

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 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 apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." 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?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 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." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are

you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“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. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just 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.

“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.

“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.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of our Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*Please be seated*

**NICENE CREED** *BCP p. 358*

*Please stand as you are able*

**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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made**

**man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

## **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

*The Leader and people pray responsively:*

During this Lenten season of self-examination, repentance, fasting, prayer, self-denial, and almsgiving, we offer our prayers to God, saying:

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the Christian church of God throughout the world, that all its members may turn to the Lord and keep a holy Lent.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the people of Iran at this time of fear and uncertainty. Guide those with the power to make decisions, and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion, and moderation.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for our nation in a time of crisis, and continue to keep in our prayers the families of all those slain by ICE. May

all who serve in immigration enforcement honor the dignity of every person they encounter.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the victims of warfare and unrest, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, Haiti, the Congo, and Venezuela, and for refugees around the world, that their mourning may be turned into joy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the nations of the world, that those in authority will hear, see, and feel the love of God in their lives; may they work toward peace and reconciliation with all people and countries.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all who are persecuted, shunned, neglected, or rejected because of racism, fear, or anti-immigrant sentiment, and we pray for an end to this type of violence and behavior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all who are in need of a safe place to live, for those who need food on the table, and for those who need protection and companionship.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all people suffering with physical, emotional, and mental illness, as well as their families and caretakers; we pray too for those who are grieving, and for those who have died.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the special needs and concerns of our Grace family, and for those on our prayer list. Are there others?

Bless, comfort, and protect all those for whom we pray.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the children in our lives and in our world: Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Grant us for the love of you to make no peace with oppression, to fear no adversity, and to have no tolerance for those who would use their power to abuse or exploit.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **CONCLUDING COLLECT**

God our creator, you are constantly and unconditionally loving us even when we stray from you. Hear our prayers and guide us into the way of your peace. **AMEN.**

## **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please be seated*

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand as you are able*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy

to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *BCP p. 364*

*Celebrant:*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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, for ever and ever. AMEN.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD** *BCP p. 364*

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People* Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Celebrant* The gifts of God, for all of us, the people of God.  
Holy gifts for holy people.

## **COMMUNION**

*Please be seated*

### *Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone*

*Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** *BCP p. 366*

*Please stand as you are able*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart through Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

## **BLESSING**

May the blessing of God Almighty—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**

## **CLOSING HYMN: Guide My Feet**

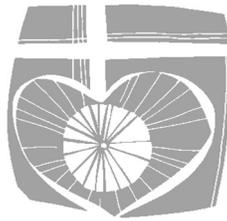
1., 5. Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I  
don't want to run this race in vain!

2. Hold my hand... 3. Stand by me... 4. Give me faith...

## **DISMISSAL** *BCP p. 366*

*Celebrant* Our worship has now ended; go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**



### **The Prayers of this Congregation**

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For Donna Hanes; Jasmine Gardner; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Pat Greenwood; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Martha Wehba; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Basse; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gheresi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Leo Bradley, Jr.; Betty Brogan; Paige Biehl; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Vickie Rose; Kristi Frangedakis; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy; Bill Atkinson; the family of Tom Krell; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Tom Burns; Steve Burns; Brenden Murphy and family; the Domienik family; Marilee Racine; Michael Oakley; Betty Moore; Ann Strevel.

***Do you know someone who can use our prayers?***

***Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.***

## **CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please send all bulletin submissions to  
[bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org](mailto:bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org)*

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

### **COFFEE HOUR**

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

### **CHOIR**

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

### **LENTEN STUDY SERIES**

The first part of our Lenten Study Series is watching and discussing Season 5 of "The Chosen." We're watching the eight episodes on **Tuesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the Guild Room. This season focuses on the triumphal Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem and goes through all of the Holy Week events.

The second component focuses on a discussion of white Christian nationalism which will meet **Sundays** at **noon** through Palm Sunday. We'll watch a video documentary the first week and explore readings from *The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism* by Carter Heyward. Participate in one or both activities for lively discussion as we prepare for Easter.

## **LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AT AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Meet in ALC's Fellowship Hall at **5:30 PM** on Wednesdays in Lent to share homemade soups, crackers, bread, and cookies, followed by a Lenten service at **6:30 PM**. This year's theme for Lenten services is "Prayer Around the World."

If you'd like to contribute a favorite soup or a batch of cookies, plan on making between 20-25 servings of soup and/or about 2 dozen cookies. Please bring them to ALC by 5 PM that Wednesday. Contact Nancy Boeck at 248-703-0861 or Donna Pretzer at 586-549-2908 with any questions.

## **GIRL SCOUT COOKIES**

A local Girl Scout troop will be selling cookies in the hall on **March 8** between services and after the 10:30 service. They're \$5 a box for the eight regular varieties and \$6 for the gluten-free variety. Cash, credit, or debit card preferred. If you don't want cookies (or have given up sweets for Lent!) but still want to support the troop, you can buy a box for donation to our food pantry. Thank you!

## **BOOK CLUB**

The next book club meeting will be at **6 PM** on **March 12** at Grace Church. The book to be discussed is *The Feather Detective* by Chris Sweeney. We look forward to meeting newcomers as well as regular members for a fun evening. Call Ann Strelvel with any questions or concerns.

## For Children in Detention Centers

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God of **tender mercies**, who taught us to measure character by our **treatment of children**, we lift up to your special care all children currently being **detained by ICE**. As these, your children, face poor living conditions, **desperation**, and despair, we ask that you **safeguard them** from all harm, and grant them that peace which only you can give. **Grant wisdom** and compassion **to those who oversee** the process of families and minors facing **immigration proceedings**, and remind us of **our call** to protect and **defend children**. Give us, your church, the strength to **speak out** against injustice, especially when the most vulnerable are at risk. We ask this in the name of our loving savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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