

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 15, 2026 – The Fourth 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: Now Let Us All With One Accord

Please stand as you are able



1 Now let us all with one ac - cord, in
2 The cov - e - nant, so long re - vealed to
3 Your love, O Lord, our sin - ful race has
4 Re - mem - ber, Lord, though frail we be, in
5 There - fore, we pray you, Lord, for - give; so



1 com - pa - ny with a - ges past, keep vi - gil with our
2 those of faith in for - mer time, Christ by his own ex -
3 not re - turned, but fal - si - fied; au - thor of mer - cy,
4 your own im - age were we made; help us, lest in anx -
5 when our wan - derings here shall cease, we may with you for



1 heav - en - ly Lord in his temp - ta - tion and his fast.
2 am - ple sealed, the Lord of love, in love sub - lime.
3 turn your face and grant re - pent - ance for our pride.
4 i - e - ty, we cause your Name to be be - trayed.
5 ev - er live, in love and u - ni - ty and peace.

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13 *Please be seated*

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the

sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

PSALM 23

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

¹The Lord is my shepherd;*

I shall not be in want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures*
and leads me beside still waters.

³He revives my soul*
**and guides me along right pathways for his
Name's sake.**

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I shall fear no evil;*
**for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me;*
**you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.**

⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL John 9:1-41

Please stand as you are able

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said

to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man

answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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. May God's love be with the most vulnerable as hardship and retaliation follow in the wake of these ongoing attacks.

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: I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light



1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right-eous-ness shine on my path And
When we have run with pa-tience the race, We



star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



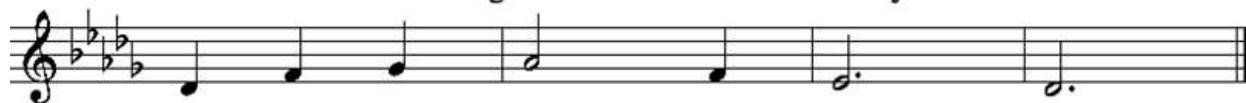
In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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 our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; 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; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Tom Burns; Steve Burns; Brenden Murphy and family; the Domienik family; Michael Oakley; Betty Moore; Sandy Krell; Bobby Coutts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffey.

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*

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.

ASPIRE WITH ALC

This Christian women's event was created out of the desire and need for women to enjoy a night out with fellowship and spiritual growth. One night of three hours full of laughter, learning, stories, and music with three women taking the stage. ALC women attended last year, and it was so fabulous, we're going again!

This year's *Aspire* is on **Friday, April 17** at **7 PM** (doors open at 6) at the Frankenmuth Bible Church, 210 S. Main Street in Frankenmuth. VIP tickets are \$45.85. The speakers are Bible teacher Barb Roose, comedian Christy Conder, and musician Jaime Jamgochian. We'll carpool from the ALC parking lot and leave early to have an early dinner at Bavarian Inn before the event. If interested in attending, contact Donna Pretzer at 586-549-2908. The deadline for registration is **Monday, March 23**. See <https://aspirewomensevents.com/> for more information.

MORE ALC EVENTS

Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the hallway for more info on upcoming and ongoing events at American Lutheran. There's a lot to choose from!

SAVE THE DATE: MUSICAL BINGO

Get ready for a fun night at church on **Saturday, April 25!** We're planning a Musical Bingo event and would love your help. If you're interested in volunteering or have ideas to share, please see or contact Margaret Morgan. Stay tuned for more details—and don't forget to mark your calendar!

For People Living Under Violence, Repression, and Slow-Moving Disasters

God of **steadfast presence**, you call us to humble ourselves and **promise to hear** the prayers offered according to your will. Amid war and rising tensions in our world, **we remember those** whose suffering **rarely reaches the headlines**—people living under violence, repression, and slow-moving disasters. **Comfort the afflicted**. Strengthen those who endure injustice, and **stir the conscience** of the global community that **the forgotten may be remembered**. Let your Spirit intercede with **sighs too deep for words**, and draw near to all who cry out for help. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
