

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 18, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

VISITORS

We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We're glad you are here.

OUR WORSHIP

Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. In turn, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

]

ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW SETTING 1

Watchword: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. – Psalm 25:8 ESV

PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER



Confession and Absolution

INVOCATION

The people please stand.

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given us his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God and bestows on them his Holy Spirit. All who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

The people stand.



ENTRANCE HYMN

Healer of Our Every III

Blue Book 738

APOSTOLIC 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.

men



P: Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The people may be seated.

Men of Grace (10:30 only) "Thy Word"



The Liturgy of the Word

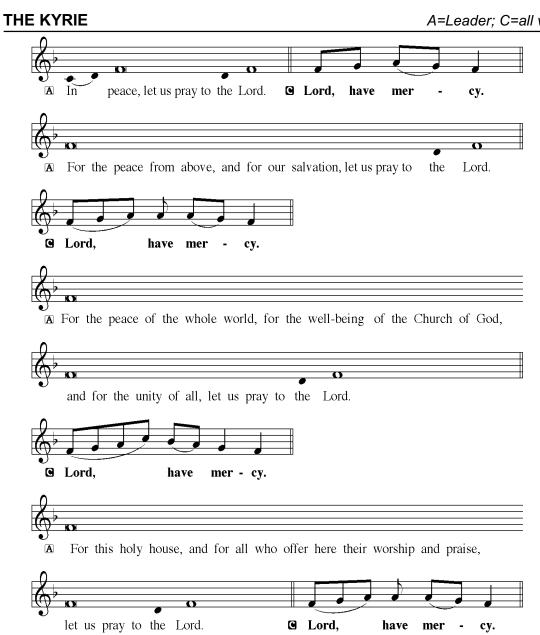
THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17

L: A reading from Genesis.

A rainbow in the clouds is a message that God remembers His promise to His creation.

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **Q** A

and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY Psalm 25:1-10

The verses are chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.



¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my | trust in you;* let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

²Let none who look to you be | put to shame;*
let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes.

³Show me your | ways, O Lord,* and teach | me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your | truth and teach me,* for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁵Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,* for they are from | everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;* remember me according to your love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.

⁷Gracious and upright | is the Lord;* therefore he teaches sinners | in his way. ⁸He guides the humble in | doing right* and teaches his way | to the lowly.

⁹All the paths of the Lord are | love and faithfulness* to those who keep his covenant and his | testimonies.

¹⁰For your name's | sake, O Lord,* forgive my sin, for | it is great.

L: A reading from 1 Peter.

Christ suffered for the unrighteous—for us. As God brought Noah and his family safely through the water of the flood, by baptism into Christ, God brings us to Him.

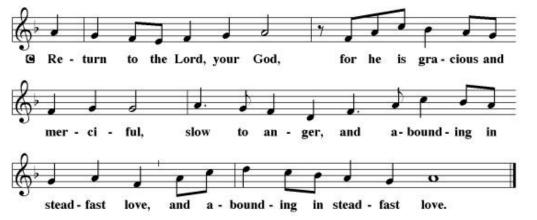
¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE

The people please stand.



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.



⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

HYMN OF THE DAY

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Green Book 229

The people stand.

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 into hell. 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

A: As we travel our Lenten Journey, **C: hear our prayer.**

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

C: Amen.



The Liturgy of Holy Communion

THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

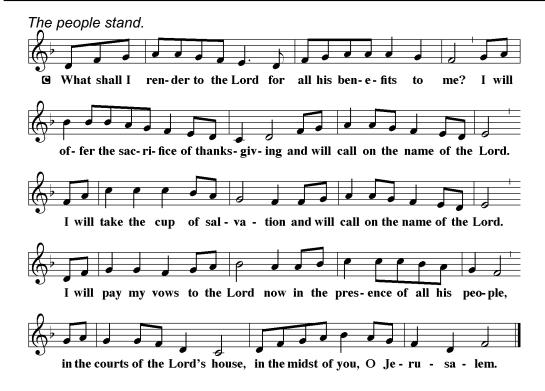
The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.

OFFERING

Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged.

Men of Grace (8:00 only) "Thy Word"

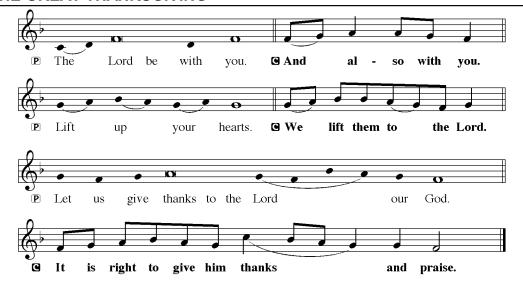
OFFERTORY RESPONSE



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

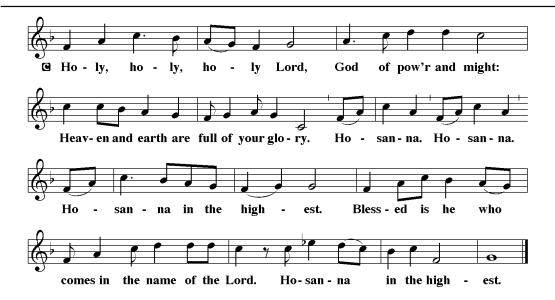
C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE PREFACE

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

THE SANCTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

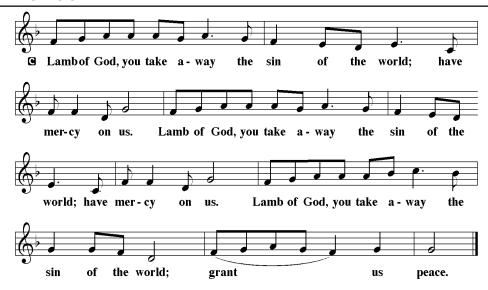
- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION

- P: Our Lord Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
- C: Lord, give us this bread always.

The people may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION

Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or

assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

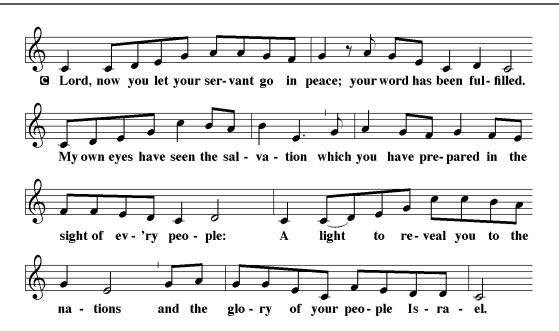
Hymns during distribution: Blue Book 734, 741, 737

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The people please stand.

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





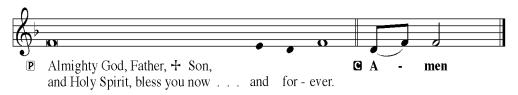
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL



A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN / W

I Want Jesus Tp Walk With Me

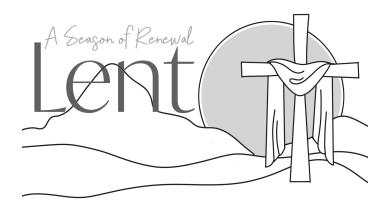
Blue Book 660

THE POSTLUDE

We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

65 E. Columbus St.
Thornville, OH 43076
(740) 246-6576
office@gracethornville.org
www.gracethornville.org
The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



COMMEMORATIONS:

As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

- Feb. 18 Martin Luther, renewer of the Church, 1546
- Feb. 20 Rasmus Jensen, the first Lutheran pastor in North America, 1620
- Feb. 23 Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156; Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, missionary to India, 1719
- Feb. 24 St. Matthias, Apostle
- Feb. 25 Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 2 LENT (FEBRUARY 25)

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Romans 4:13-25

Psalm 22:23-31 Mark 8:31-38