



Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

**Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

The Potter's Hand

Praise Team

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors.

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face.

Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn**

I Believe in Jesus

by Marc Nelson

I believe in Jesus, I believe He is the Son of God,
I believe He died and rose again, I believe he paid for us all,
And I believe that He's here now, standing in our midst,
Here with the power to heal now, and the grace to forgive.

I believe in You, Lord, I believe You are the Son of God,
I believe You died and rose again, I believe You paid for us all,

And I believe that You're here now, standing in our midst,
Here with the power to heal now, and the grace to forgive.

I believe in Jesus, I believe He is the Son of God,
I believe He died and rose again, I believe he paid for us all,
And I believe that He's here now, standing in our midst,
Here with the power to heal now, and the grace to forgive.

1987 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing. CCLI #11575839

Greeting

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

***Prayer of the Day**

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from Genesis:

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

(read responsively)

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**
⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

*Gospel Acclamation

Awesome God

by Rich Mullins

Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above,
With wisdom, pow'r and love, our God is an awesome God.

1988 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing. CCLI #11575839

Gospel

Matthew 4: 1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and

worship me.”¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Priscilla

Hymn of the Day

Change My Heart, Oh God

by Eddie Espinosa

Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true,
Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay,
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true,
Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay,
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true,
Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You.

1982 Heart And Harp Worship. CCLI #11575839



Rite of Baptism

Lydia Josephine Green

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Casey & Krista,

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, you have brought Lydia to be baptized. As you bring her to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life? **I do.**

Sponsors:

Andrew & Lily,

Do you promise to nurture Lydia in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? **I do.**

Family and friends here today, do you promise to support and pray for Lydia in her new life in Christ? **We do.**

Profession of faith

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**



Blessing over the water

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Baptism

I baptize you, Lydia Josephine +in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Laying on of hands

Sustain Lydia with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Anointing with oil

Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

A white cloth is given as a reminder that we are clothed with Christ.

A lighted candle is given as a reminder that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life" and "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God".

***Prayers of Intercession**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, we entrust to you all who have asked us to pray and remember especially those on our prayer list. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

***Peace**

Jesus said to his disciples, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."*

The peace of the Lord be with you, always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Sung

Invitation to Communion

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

Hymn during Communion

Amazing Love

by Graham Kendrick

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still You're there right beside me,
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near, please be with me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
I will not forget, Your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering,
Jesus be my guide, and hold me to Your side, and I will love You to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,
And a light unto my path, You're the light unto my path.

1984 Meadowgreen Music Company & Vinny Mae's Girl. CCLI #11575839

Blessing after Communion

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace, from now
unto everlasting life.

Amen.

***Prayer after Communion**

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Benediction

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Praise Team

Sending Hymn

Trading My Sorrows

by Darrell Evans

I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord;
I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord,
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord, Amen.

I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord;
I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.

Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord,
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord, Amen.
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord,
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord, Amen, Amen, Amen.

1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. CCLI #11575839

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Some of the prayers of intercession are based on the text of "O Splendor of God's glory bright" (ELW 559). Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress. From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and livestreamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004892. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. Live Streaming Hymns are covered under the CCLI #20195800 and One License #A-729549