

Fourth Sunday in Lent

“For God So Loved The World...”



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
March 18, 2012



PRESERVICE MUSIC

7:45 AM **Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**
By Helen H. Lemmel

10:00 AM **Once Again with Beneath the Cross of Jesus**
Arr. by Tom Fettke

WELCOME

LENTEN GATHERING RITE: REMEMBER YOUR LOVE

As individual Christians gather for public worship, we are united by our common sin and the necessity of repentance and faith. Much like the opening hymn and canticles of our traditional Liturgy, this Lenten Gathering Rite unites us in sung refrains and spoken responses.

ENTRANCE SONG

The cantor/choir introduces the refrain. The congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated.



Psalm 130

As watchmen who wait upon the daylight, wait for the Lord.
I trust in your kindness and redemption and your faithful word.

Refrain

Before all the mountains were begotten and earth took shape,
even then, O Lord, you were our refuge throughout ev'ry age.

Refrain

INVOCATION

[M] In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
[C] **Amen.** (*spoken*)

[M] The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
[C] **And also with you.**

CONFESSION - LORD, HAVE MERCY - ABSOLUTION

[M] As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us confess our sin and ask the Lord for pardon and strength:

[C] **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Cantor: 1. Lord Jesus, you came to heal all blindness:
2. Christ Jesus, you see what we cannot see:
3. Lord Jesus, you bring light to the world:

*After each stanza,
follow the printed
music below*



1. Lord, have mer - cy. **Lord, have mer - cy.**
2. Christ, have mer - cy. **Christ, have mer - cy.**
3. Lord, have mer - cy. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

[M] God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] **Amen.** (*spoken*)

All sing the refrain once more.



Re - mem-ber your love and your faith-ful-ness, O Lord.



Re - mem-ber your peo-ple and have mer-cy on us, Lord.

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STAND

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M] The Lord be with you.

[C] **And also with you.**

[M] Let us pray. Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said,

“We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:4-10

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his

kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

VOICES OF GRACE

God So Loved the World

*God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that who so believeth, believeth in Him
Should not perish, should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world,
But that the world through Him might be saved.*

By John Stainer

STAND

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands

condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

God Loved the World So that He Gave
Christian Worship #391

SERMON

John 3:14-21
God So Loved the World

STAND

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction.



[C] Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or



take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal -



va - tion, and up - hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

BE SEATED

OFFERING *Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.*

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

7:45 AM

Jesus Loves Me
Arr. by Victor Labenske

10:00 AM

Be Unto Your Name
Arr. by Carol Tornquist
Duet: Teri Guenther & Jim Goldie

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH — LENT

[M] Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

[C] **We confess that without your love we are lost.**

[M] Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

[C] **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

[M] Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

[C] **Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

[M] Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

[C] **Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

[M] Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

[M] Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

[C] **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

[C] **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

7:45 AM - Please continue with the Words of Institution on the bottom of page 6.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

[M] The Lord be with you.

[C] **And also with you.**

[M] Lift up your hearts.

[C] **We lift them up to the Lord.**

[M] Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

[C] **It is good and right so to do.**

[M] It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:



[C] Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[M] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

[M] The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

[C] O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - - - men. A - - - men.

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BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

Our church practices "Member Communion." If you are a guest today and are a confirmed member of another WELS church, we invite you to the Lord's Table with us. If you are a guest today and are not a member of one of our Wisconsin Synod churches, we ask that you would speak to one of the pastors after church today or at some other time to discuss receiving the Lord's Supper with us in the future.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (10:00 AM)

By Grace I'm Saved
Christian Worship #384

STAND

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

[C] In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre-pared for.

ev-'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry, the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

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[M] O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

[C] **And his mercy endures forever.**

[M] We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

[M] The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

[C] **Amen.**

BE SEATED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory
Christian Worship #345

POSTLUDE

7:45 AM

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer
Arr. by Valerie Floeter

10:00 AM

Grace Greater Than Our Sin
Arr. by Richard Huggins

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher Pastor Nathan Kassulke

Worship Leader Pastor Ron Koehler (10:00 AM)

Communion Assistants Pastor Mark Hallemeier, Jeff Weinstein—*Outreach Elder* (10:00 AM)

Accompanists Kathy Parra (7:45 AM)
Elaine Goldie (10:00 AM)

Cantor Voices of Grace

Voices of Grace Director Beth Kassulke

Sound and Recording Tech Chris Stuhr (10:00 AM)



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To Aid You in Worship...

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. ASK A GREETER OR USHER FOR A COPY.
- *For those with young children:* A private Mother's Room is located across the courtyard in the Ladies' Restroom. Parents of young children may also use the Child Care Room in the basement at any time to quiet and care for them (the service can be heard in both locations).
- Sermon copies & service CDs are available in the narthex.

Welcome to Grace!

Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

Holy Communion

There are before-communion and after-communion prayers in our Christian Worship hymnal on p. 11, and a personal preparation guide on p.156 to help prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper. If you are a guest with us today, please see p. 7 in today's worship folder under "Distribution" for information about our practice of Member Communion.

Altar Flowers have been given by Tom & Deb Sloyan in thanks to God for all of their blessings.

Read Ahead for Next Sunday:

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:7-10
John 12:20-33

Next Sun. Sermon Text & Theme:

John 12:20-33
The Seed Will Be Planted Soon

Bible Class this Morning

Arizona Lutheran Academy President, John Sebald, will be leading the Bible class hour this morning at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship following 10:00 AM worship today hosted by the Holz family. Please join us in the courtyard.

Usher Training TODAY

Usher training will take place today following the 10:00 AM service. All ushers who are currently serving, and any men and women confirmation age and older who would like to serve are asked to attend. Please contact Mark Christianson at 575-0168 if you have any questions.

LWMS Circuit Split Vote

Today and next Sunday, March 25, there will be a table set-up (in the courtyard, weather permitting) to vote on the LWMS Grand Canyon Circuit split. Our congregation will have **one vote** sent to the board by our LWMS reporter, Dorothy Rauh. Grace ladies' votes will be tallied and the majority will determine our congregation vote. Please, stop by the polling table today or next Sunday to learn more and cast your vote. If you have any questions or to learn more about the proposed circuit split, please talk to Diane Kramm (440-8564,) Sue Sargent (647-3049) or go to www.grandcanyonlwms.org.



Dishes in the Kitchen

There are quite a few dishes in the kitchen next to the microwave that need to be picked up. Please take a moment and see if any belong to you. The Mexican Dinner is right around the corner and the extra space is needed!

This Week's Schedule (3/18/12 - 3/25/12)

Today

- Worship Services/Communion7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
 - ALA President John Sebald (F. Hall).....9:00a
 - **NO** Grow in Grace Class
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*9:00a
- Grace-Vail Service at Cottonwood Elementary**.....9:00a
- Coffee Fellowship following 10 AM Worship.....
- LWMS Vote on Circuit Split** 11:15a
- WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study..... 7:00p

Monday

- Bible Study at Vail Golf Club: *Book of Acts*.....9:30a
- English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p

Tuesday

- Handbells Practice in the Church Basement 5:30p
- Council Meeting**..... 6:15p
- English as a Second Language Classes..... 6:30p

Wednesday

- Midweek Lenten Worship** 10:00a
- Wind Ensemble Practice: *Brass*..... 5:30p
- Lenten Supper in the Fellowship Hall** 6:00-6:45p
- Midweek Lenten Worship** 7:00p

Thursday

- Women's Bible Class: *Prayer*.....9:00a
- Worship Choir.....6:30p
- Men's Bible Study..... 7:30p

Friday

- Mexican Dinner**4:30-6:30p
- Boy Pioneer District Campout (Friday-Sunday).....

Saturday

- Vail Canvassing Blitz in Rita Ranch**9:00a

Sunday

- Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
 - *The Life of Christ: The Calling of the Twelve* (F. Hall)....9:00a
 - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office)9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*.....9:00a
- Grace-Vail Service at Cottonwood Elementary**..... 9:00a
- Coffee Fellowship following 10 AM Worship
- WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study..... 7:00p

Grace is looking for volunteers who are interested in driving the Grace van on Sunday mornings. Please call the church office for more information at 623-6633.

Sunday Morning Worship CDs

Audio CDs of today's 10:00 AM worship service are available for pick-up in the main entryway of church under the glass bulletin board. Printed sermon copies are available there as well. You can also visit our Grace website at www.GraceTucsonWELS.com. On the website, you can watch service videos and follow along with the service folder, hear audio sermons, read or print sermons, work through some online Bible studies, and find current schedules and information. Some website items are only available to Grace members through your personal login, so be sure to sign up if you have not done so already.



The *Women of Grace* invite everyone to join them this Friday, March 23, between 4:30-6:30 PM for the annual Mexican Dinner.

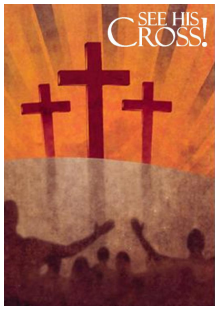
The menu includes: Sour Cream Enchiladas, Beef Tacos, Refried Beans, Assorted Cakes, Coffee, Tea, & Milk.

There are sign-up sheets on the table in the Fellowship Hall if you'd like to help with the meal or bring a cake to share.

Mexican Dinner—This Friday!

Desserts for Grace-Vail Pig Roast - Sunday, April 1

Planning to attend the grand opening service and pig roast at Grace-Vail? Food for the meal is already provided but desserts would be appreciated. Because there are limited facilities we request that you bring cookies, bars, brownies, or similar "finger food desserts." Please bring desserts ready to serve, that is already cut, plated, and covered (plastic wrap or in a container). *Please no layer cakes or pies.* For more information contact Sue Sargent, 647-3049 or e-mail suesgt@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you April 1st. It will be a blessed day!



SEE HIS CROSS! SURPRISING WORDS FROM OUR SAVIOR'S PASSION

God's plan for our salvation was always clear. Jesus had to make the journey to the cross and resurrection in order to forgive our sins. This Lenten season, follow Jesus on that journey from Ash Wednesday to his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. See how each event along the Savior's path fulfilled God's plan.

Midweek 5

March 21

"Glory Be To Jesus!"

Worship Times:

10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

/

Lenten Supper:

6:00 PM

Easter Invitations

Easter is a great time to invite your unchurched friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors to church! If you have someone in your life who does not have a church home, we'd like to help you make that invitation. The following resources are all available in the Fellowship Hall:

Printed Postcard Invitations. These full-color large postcards have information about our Easter events and activities at both Grace-University and Grace-Vail. They no longer have space available for addressing and sending them through the mail, but can be given in person or left for a friend. Especially if you leave one for someone, make an effort to follow up in person.

Road to Emmaus DVDs. These DVDs were professionally produced within the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). They depict the biblical account of Jesus explaining his work to two disciples on their way to the town of Emmaus. We have a number of these DVDs which are available for free to be given away to an unchurched friend.

Easter for Kids. Easter for Kids will be held at Grace-University on Saturday, March 31, 9:30 AM-1:00 PM. Registration forms which also include invitations are available in the Fellowship Hall. Register your own child or children and invite others, especially the unchurched, to join you!

Whether or not you invite someone to church that day, remember that on Easter we expect many guests. Do your best to welcome them warmly and to share God's love with them.

Singing Opportunities

The Grace Choir would like to provide special music for upcoming worship services both at Grace-University and at Grace-Vail. In order to do so, we need some singers! Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in singing. Specifically, we are looking at Palm Sunday, April 1 and Easter Sunday, April 8. We need to know who is available to sing and at which location. Rehearsals for Grace-University are at 6:30 PM on Thursdays. Grace-Vail rehearsals will be determined soon. To indicate your interest, you may speak to Teri Guenther (235-1177) or to Cora in the Church Office (623-6633, Office@GraceTucsonWELS.com).

Easter Concert Sign-Up

As part of our Easter celebration on April 8, we will be holding a concert at Grace-University. If you are interested in participating as a performer for this event, please fill out a form (available in the Fellowship Hall and Church Office) and return it no later than April 1. If you have any questions, please direct them to Beth Kassulke (293-2935) or Teri Guenther (235-1177).

Easter Caroling at the Sabino Canyon Rehabilitation Center

On Palm Sunday, April 1 at 1:30 PM, a group from Grace will be singing about the joyous message of Christ's resurrection at Sabino Canyon Rehabilitation Center (5830 E. Pima Road, east of Craycroft on the south side of Pima). The music will be from the hymnal and we'll have piano accompaniment. There are no practice commitments required. Simply plan to arrive by 1:15 PM in the large meeting/craft room which is adjacent to the 300 room wing. All are welcome to join us for "Easter Caroling"! Your presence will be appreciated by the staff and their patients.