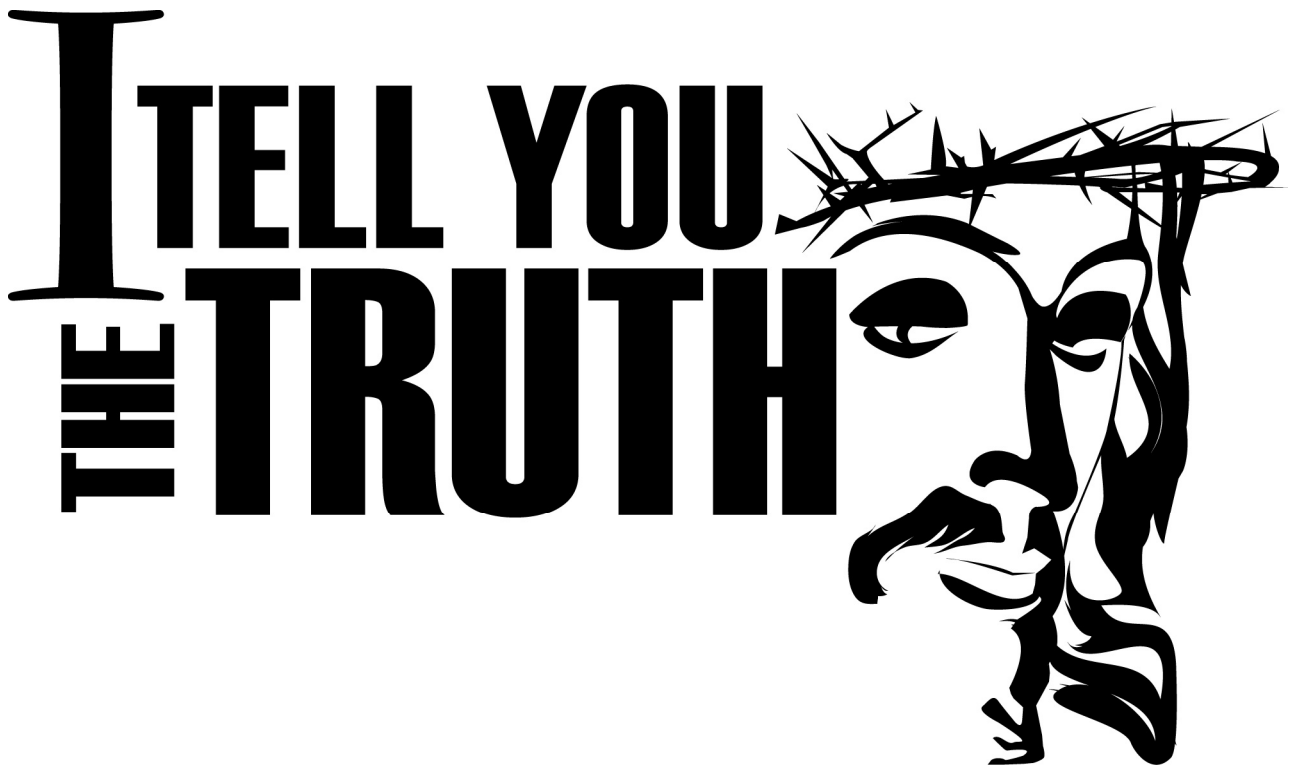


Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2015



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tucson, Arizona

## Season of Lent

The Lenten Season is observed during the six weeks prior to Easter. The traditional goal of Lent is to prepare believers for a proper celebration of the events of Holy Week, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The purple color of the altar paraments and vestments remind us that Lent is also a season of repentance. The Bible tells us that repentance is always the divine work of the Holy Spirit through the Law and the Gospel. The Law crucifies the old Adam, the sinful nature within us, and the Gospel raises up the new man, the new creation in us. For us, the Lenten focus on the cross and suffering of Jesus is not aimed at an emotional response. It is a pointed proclamation and confession of the Law and the Gospel, a preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Lent is properly a season of repentance when it brings the cross to sinners and sinners to the cross of Christ as the fountain and source of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

When we speak or preach from the "Passion of Christ," we are speaking or preaching about Christ's suffering and death on Calvary's cross for the sins of the world. Yes, the Passion is about the purple robe and the crown of thorns; Christ carrying his cross; the soldiers with their hammers, the nails, and the spear; and Christ's words from the cross. But more than the objects and events, the Passion is about Jesus taking on himself the sins of the world and then experiencing to the fullest degree the Father's just wrath upon that sin. It is about forgiveness and salvation graciously offered in view of the shed blood of Calvary.

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Ashes were used by God's people to show repentance. The day derives its name from the practice of repentant people receiving ashes on their forehead. This practice goes back to at least the 8th century A.D.

### Wednesday Mornings

You are encouraged to sit near the front on both sides of the church.

An offering is not taken during the morning services, but you may leave your gifts to the Lord in the offering plates near the exits.

**Please** fill in the Friendship Register (red folder at the end of the pew) and pass it along for others. If you are a Winter Visitor, we are very happy to have you worshiping with us! Please provide us with a local address on the friendship register. Thank You!

**Please** do not park on the street for morning services. A permit is required to avoid being towed.

**Please** consider joining us for the Lenten Supper at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

### OPENING HYMN

Savior, When in Dust to You  
*Christian Worship #124*

*Branches Band will sing stanza 1, the congregation may join on remaining stanzas.*

*Please stand*

### RESPONSIVE READING

Minister: "This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation...'" (*Isaiah 30:15*)

Congregation: "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." (*Proverbs 28:13*)

M: "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord..." (*Acts 3:19*)

C: He sent his one and only Son Jesus, who came not "to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (*Luke 5:32*)

M: "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (*2 Peter 3:9*)

C: "Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake." (*Psalms 79:9*)

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Because we are all sons and daughters of the Lord, we are called by him to repent of our sins. Let us go before our God and ask for his forgiveness. (*Acts 17:29-30*)

Stanza 1 (*Branches Band*)

*CW #398 (tune of CW #493)*

Lord, we confess our num'rous faults,  
How great our guilt has been,  
How vain and foolish all our thoughts,  
How deeply stained with sin.

M: The Apostle John declares, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Together, we confess our sins. (*1 John 1:9*)

C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Cleanse me and I will be clean. Wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (*Psalms 51*)

*Silent Confession*

Stanza 2 (*Branches Band*)

CW #398 (tune of CW #493)

It's not by works of righteousness  
Which our own hands have done,  
But we are saved by God's free grace  
Abounding through his Son.

M: Having confessed your sins, hear the good news of our salvation, "the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. Dear children, your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (1 John 1:7, 2:12, 5:11)

Stanzas 3-4 (*congregation joins*)

CW #398 (tune of CW #493)



It's from the mer - cy of our God That all our hopes be - gin;  
Raised from the dead we live a - new; And, jus - ti - fied by grace,



It's by the wa - ter and the blood Our souls are washed from sin.  
We shall ap - pear in glo - ry, too, And see our Fa - ther's face.

**SALUTATION**

M: The Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**FIRST LESSON**

**2 Samuel 24:10-25**

David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing." Before David got up the next morning, the word of the LORD had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer: "Go and tell David,

'This is what the LORD says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'" So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come upon you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide

how I should answer the one who sent me.” David said to Gad, “I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men.” So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, “Enough! Withdraw your hand.” The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, “I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall upon me and my family.” On that day Gad went to David and said to him, “Go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” So David went up, as the LORD had commanded through Gad. When Araunah looked and saw the king and his

men coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” “To buy your threshing floor,” David answered, “so I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped.” Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take whatever pleases him and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. O king, Araunah gives all this to the king.” Araunah also said to him, “May the LORD your God accept you.” But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD answered prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

## **PSALM 51 — A Psalm of Repentance**

*Sung by the Branches Band*

### **SECOND LESSON**

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich;

### **Revelation 3:14-22**

and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth

of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Please be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, You Set Us Free

*Christian Worship #123*

*Branches Band will sing stanza 1, the congregation may join on remaining stanzas.*

## SERMON

John 8:31-36

### I Tell You the Truth...Anyone Who Sins is a Slave to Sin

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say

that we shall be set free?” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

*Please stand*

## NICENE CREED

C: 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.

**C:** 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.

*Please be seated (6:30 PM service only)*

**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. An offering is not taken during the 10 AM service, but you may leave your gifts to the Lord in the plates near the exits.*

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



*If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.*

*Please stand*

## **RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

**M:** God of might and compassion, open your ears to the prayers of your people who wait for you. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but listen to your Church pleading for the fullness of your redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** “Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.” *(Psalm 130:1-2)*

**M:** O God, compassionate Father and Friend, remember not our sins but rather remember your love and mercy. Relieve our distress and satisfy us with eternal peace.

**C:** “Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.” *(Psalm 25:6-7)*

**M:** Gracious Father in heaven, in countless ways we have transgressed against you. But you have been merciful to us and have forgiven the guilt of our sin. Surround us with your unfailing love that we may rejoice in your great goodness now and forever.

**C:** “I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’—and you forgave the guilt of my sin. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.” *(Psalm 32:5, 7)*

**M:** Father, your Son endured the agony of the cross so that by his death and resurrection we might become heirs of eternal life. Fill us with the joy and peace of believing as you guide us on the way that leads to our heavenly home where you live and reign with your Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C:** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. *(Psalm 73:26)*

- M: Lord Jesus, by your gracious coming into the world you destroyed death and made all things new. Grant that we may never tire of proclaiming your salvation to the ends of the earth.
- C: **The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness...all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Psalm 98:2, 3)**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

- M: In repentance and forgiveness we have found rest, and in your name, Lord Jesus, we pray the prayer you taught us,

### 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.**

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Jesus urges all who receive it to do so in a worthy manner in order to receive the blessings he promises. He also gives warning that no one receive it to their judgment. If you are a guest at Grace today and not a member of another Wisconsin Synod congregation, we would ask that you speak with one of the pastors about a time to discuss what exactly God says about Holy Communion before you come to the Lord's table. We look forward to that opportunity!*

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.**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: **Amen.**



## 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.

*Please be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

**Lamb of God**  
*Sung by the Branches Band*

*Your only Son no sin to hide  
But You have sent Him, from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod  
And to become the Lamb of God*

*Chorus:  
Oh Lamb of God, Sweet lamb of God  
I love the Holy Lamb of God  
Oh wash me in His precious Blood  
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God*

*Your gift of Love they crucified  
They laughed and scorned him as he died  
The humble King they named a fraud  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God*

*Chorus*

*I was so lost I should have died  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod  
And to be call a lamb of God*

*Chorus*

*Please stand*

## SONG OF SIMEON



1. O Lord, now let your ser - vant De - part in peace, as - sured:  
2. All glo - ry to the Fath - er, All glo - ry to the Son,  
For I have seen your pro - mised in - car - nate, sav - ing Word  
All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For - ev - er three in one;  
A Light that will en - light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell;  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be,  
The bril - liant, crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!  
God's tri - une name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## BLESSING

M: The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

C: Amen.

*Please be seated*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CLOSING HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This  
*Christian Worship #120*

*Branches Band will sing stanza 1, the congregation may join on remaining stanzas.*

## Those Assisting in Worship Today

Service ..... Pastor Sam Clemons  
Communion Assistant..... Pastor Ron Koehler  
Guest Musicians..... Branches Band

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## Free-Will Offering

There will be a free-will door offering after the service to support the ministry of Branches Band. Feel free to visit their display in the narthex for more information, CDs, and sheet music that Branches Band has produced.

## About Branches Band

Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches...” (John 15:5) Branches Band, a Milwaukee-based music group, uses their love for music to identify the Savior of the world: Jesus! From ancient hymns to modern songs, from guitars and piano to percussion and vocal harmonies, the truth of God’s love and grace is at the root of the Branches Band ministry.

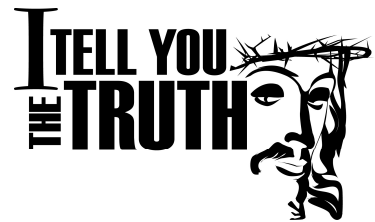
Branches Band travels all over the United States and Canada with their repertoire including hundreds of hymns and songs. Branches Band has served close to 400 WELS and ELS congregations by offering Christian concerts, assisting with worship, and developing music resources for today’s church leaders and worship teams.

For more information, visit the Branches Band website ([www.branchesband.com](http://www.branchesband.com)), or visit them on Facebook at ([www.facebook.com/branchesband](http://www.facebook.com/branchesband)).

## Lenten Services

Our Lenten theme this year is “I Tell You the Truth,” based on several teachings of Jesus highlighted by that phrase.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Feb 18   | “Anyone Who Sins is a Slave to Sin”      |
| Feb 25   | “Faith Can Move Mountains”               |
| March 4  | “Fruits of Faith Will Be Remembered”     |
| March 11 | “One of You Will Betray Me”              |
| March 18 | “You Will Disown Me”                     |
| March 25 | “If One Dies, It Produces Life For Many” |



Worship Times: 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM at Grace-Tucson

## Lenten Suppers

Lenten suppers are served each Wednesday at Grace-Tucson beginning at 5:30 PM. There is no charge for the meal but donations are accepted to offset costs. We need volunteers to host the meals, February 25, March 4, March 18 and March 25 (individuals, families, groups, or any combination). There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall as well as an information sheet which explains how to host one of these meals. You may also contact the church office (623-6633) if you’re interested in helping.



Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)