



**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**OPENING MUSIC**

“The Glory of These Forty Days” setting, Robert Powell (Augsburg Fortress)

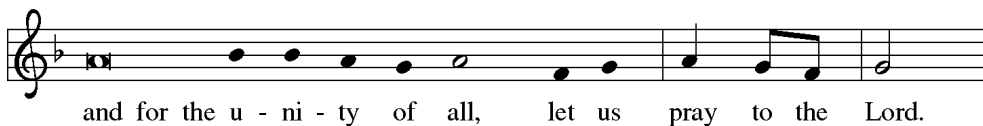
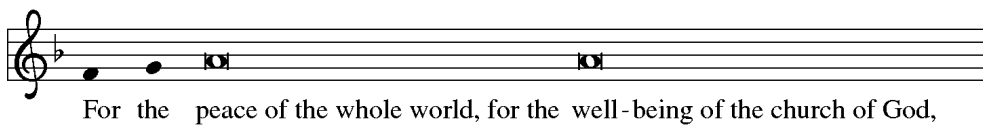
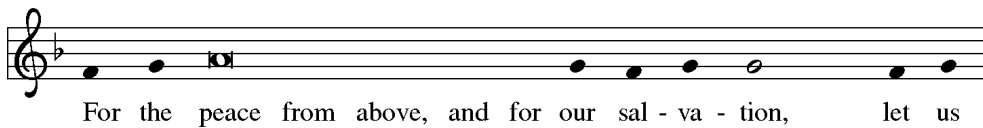
*Please stand as you are able.*

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**KYRIE**

ELW pg. 120



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,  
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.  
 Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.  
 A - men.

**GREETING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God beyond time, you breathed life into our dusty bones. When we rush too fast, trying to escape our mortality, you slow us down and teach us to be still. Be present with our whirlwind impatience, our ash-strewn hopes and dreams. Set the stage for joy in our lives; wait with us until it comes. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**WELCOME**

**WORD**  
 God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING:** **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 846*  
 Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** **Psalm 51:1-17**  
*The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.*

**SECOND READING:** **2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 181*  
 Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 40*  
 The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"How Small Our Span of Life"**

ELW 636 (One License)

## **INVITATION TO LENT**

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please kneel as you are able or be seated.*

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to you and to one another,  
and before the whole company of heaven,  
that we have sinned by our fault,  
by our own fault,  
by our own most grievous fault,  
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

*Please be seated.*

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ we are given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. Those worshipping at home may mark the sign of the cross on their foreheads (do not mix ashes with water).*

**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

### **MUSIC**

12:00 p.m.- "Be Thou My Vision" setting, Robert Powell (One License)

7:00 p.m.- "Dust, Remember You Are Splendor"  
Susan Palo Cherwien & Anne Krentz Organ (Augsburg Fortress)

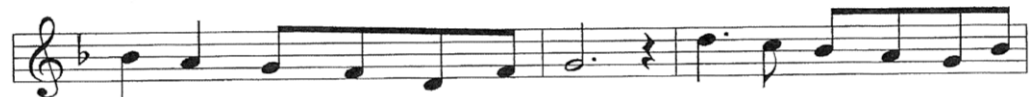
*Congregation:*



4 Dust, re-mem-ber you are splen-dor: like a wa-tered gar-den



grow; light shall warm you like the dawn-ing;



riv-ers through your glades shall flow; fruit-ful, pre-cious, and be-



lov-ed, you shall God's own splen - dor show.

*Choir:* Dust, you are splendor. You shall God's own splendor show.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *A brief silence.*

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war. Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts \_\_\_\_\_. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church. Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **PEACE**

*After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a physically distant sign of God's peace with one another—wave a greeting of peace to people around you, and/or text a greeting of peace to someone.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Please be seated.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of mercy and grace, you give us so much:  
our days, our loved ones, our passions and talents,  
the food we eat, the homes we know, a place to worship.

God, you pour out an abundance of goodness.  
Receive the gifts we offer back to you today.  
Bless them and bless us,  
that we will give generously,  
love boldly, and share widely,  
our offering reflecting your joyful gift. **Amen**

### OFFERING

*Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Vanco Mobile App, or online at Grace's website (Use the QR code provided). You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.*



### OFFERING HYMN

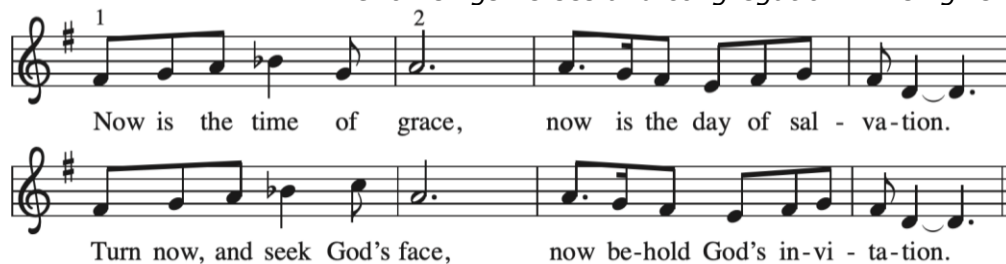
12:00 p.m.- **"Create in Me a Clean Heart"**

ELW 186 (Augsburg Fortress)

7:00 p.m.- **"Now is the Time of Grace"**

ACS 918 (One License)

*Choir sings verses and congregation will sing refrain printed below.*



Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.  
Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 134, left column

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All are welcome at the Lord's table.*

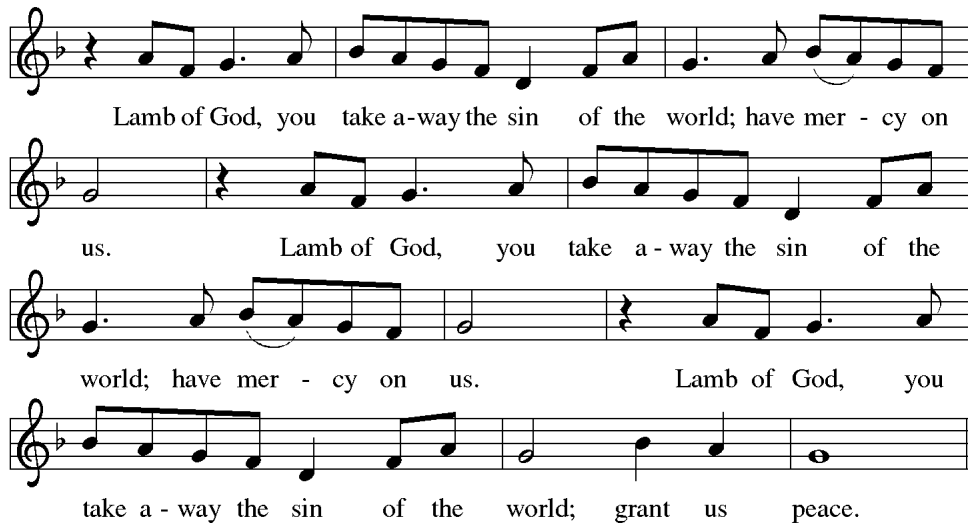
Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*Please be seated. The congregation will commune, beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine or juice. Extend your hands to receive a wafer from the pastor or communion assistant. Then please pick up one cup from the trays (red wine or white grape juice), and then place empty cup in a tray on the front pew before returning to your seat. Gluten free elements are available upon request. If you would like the communion elements to be brought to you, please notify an usher.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### "Lamb of God"

ELW pg. 135 (Augsburg Fortress)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

### "Restore in Us, O God"

ELW 328 (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

Go with blessing.

The One who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos  
weaves joy within your own heart.

The One who experienced all our human joys and sorrows  
travels right beside you.

The One who whispers joy to our hearts  
is present within you.

You are blessed in the name of God, Holy Three in One. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### "The Glory of These Forty Days"

ELW 320 (One License)

## CHARGE

Practice joy. As you leave this place, go with the joy that sets the stage for life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING MUSIC

### "How Small Our Span of Life"

setting, Robert Powell (Augsburg Fortress)

## Worship Team

A/V Team:

7 p.m.: Andy Bellavia

Acolytes:

7 p.m.: Zach Kniola, Wilson Robbins, Grace Schaaf

Communion Assistants:

Noon: Michelle Anderson, Mary Noe,

7 p.m.: Anne Johnson, Marylee Steinwehe, Addie Jo Wedoff,  
Audrey Wedoff, Elle Wedoff

Greeters:

Noon: Michelle Anderson, Mary Noe

7 p.m.: Bill Kreznor, Nancy Kreznor

Reader:

Noon: Caryl Dierksen

7 p.m.: Karen Reinhard

Ushers:

Noon: Matt Meiners, Vicki Meiners

7 p.m.: Carrie Jarnecke, Kevin Jarnecke,

Altar Guild: Janette Hess, Cindy Meyer, Grace Nellessen, Kristy Nellessen

Musicians:

Noon: Jan Burns

7 p.m.: Jan Burns, Carrie Filetti, Maren Filetti, Chancel Choir

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom



## Bulletin Sponsors:

In loving memory of my mother, Mollie Beardsley, given by Charlotte Beardsley.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God's word and pray together. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day.



You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church's Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities.

Peace be with you as you go forth to share God's grace.

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**Sundays in Lent**  
8:30 a.m. Devotions Conversation  
9:00 a.m.\* Worship

**Palm Passion Sunday, March 24**  
9:00 a.m.\* Worship

**Maundy Thursday, March 28**  
Noon & 7:00 p.m.\*

**Good Friday, March 29**  
Noon & 7:00 p.m.\*

**Easter Sunday, March 31**  
8:00 a.m.\* & 10:00 a.m.\*

*\*Worship Livestream*