

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod)
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
March 8, 2015

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, You kept the Law perfectly in my place so that You could be the spotless Lamb of God and the once and for all sacrifice for my sins. You have made me right with the Father so that I might rejoice in knowing that He is the Lord my God who has redeemed me from my slavery to sin. Empower me by Your Holy Spirit to live my life according to the Father's will, in thanksgiving to You and love toward my neighbor, confident that I will be kept in the faith that leads to life everlasting. I pray this in Your holy name. Amen

WELCOME

Welcome to everyone! In the Epistle reading for today St. Paul writes, "We preach Christ crucified." This proclamation is the heart and center of the Gospel which we have been called to share for the comfort of souls in light of the Law's conviction of our sinful hearts. We believe, teach and confess that Jesus was crucified for our sins, died and was buried, raised on the third day for our justification and is now seated at the right hand of the Father where He makes intercession for us. Indeed the Gospel is the very power to salvation for all who believe, even as that same Gospel is what empowers us to live our lives in thanksgiving to God.

If you are visiting with us we especially wish to welcome you! We ask that everyone fill out an attendance card found at each pew and return it to an usher during the Offering. If you would like to know more about Grace, please speak with our Pastor. Restrooms are located downstairs in this building or across the bridge on this floor level before entering the Fellowship Hall. Children are welcome in our Service and will be invited to come forward for a Children's Message. A parent can accompany them. A nursery for infants and toddlers is located downstairs for anyone who has need.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is celebrated in our 8:15 Service this morning. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to receive this Sacrament of Christ's body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins, we ask that you first speak with our Pastor so that the unity of faith might be established. Thank you for honoring this request.

AS WE GATHER

As we enter the midpoint of this Lenten season, today's readings invite us to pause and assess our lives. Some may be using this season to make changes in their routines by fasting, being more fervent in prayer and devotion, or doing extra acts of mercy. Whenever we try such things, we are reminded again of our own weaknesses. Try as we might, we cannot do it perfectly. The Old Testament reading puts that before us and yet it shares with us that the same God who delivered the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt is the same God who delivered us from our slavery to sin and our disobedience to the perfect will of God. In Christ crucified we are redeemed and forgiven.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are given today to the glory of God and the beautification of His house by Harold Wells in loving memory of his mother Mrs. Edith Wells and in thanksgiving for God's many blessings bestowed on Harold and his family.

THOSE WHO SERVE

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Pastor: | | Rev. James C. Walter |
| Director of Parish Music: | | Nathan Beethe |
| Secretary: | | Pat Funk |
| Early Childhood Center Director: | | Colleen Moorman |
| Acolyte: | (8:15) | Connor Stephens |
| Cantor: | (8:15) | Paula Walter |
| Communion Assistant: | (8:15) | Carter Stein |
| Ushers: | (8:15) | Terry Bradshaw, Gary Goldsby Jim Marvin |
| Greeters: | (8:15) | Jim and Florence Marvin |
| Altar Guild: | (8:15) | Lori Bloom, Angie Proud |
| Acolyte: | (10:45) | Annalia Buchanan |
| Cantor: | (10:45) | Ron Krueger |
| Ushers: | (10:45) | Charlie Buchanan, Terry Clawitter Bryan Gipson, David Roberts |
| Greeters: | (10:45) | Richard and Beverly Sanders |
| Altar Guild: | (10:45) | Dawn Cline |
| Violin: | | Christopher Sonntag |
| Choirs: | | Children's Choir, Adult Choir |
| Coffee Hosts: | | The Junkans Family |
| Altar Guild: | (Wed. evening) | Suzanne Raddle and Wilma Richter |
| Nursery Attendant: | | Mary Ann Dyer |

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS - The appointed readings for next Sunday, March 15th, The Fourth Sunday in Lent: The Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9, The Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10, and The Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21.

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www.gracelutheranlr.org
Telephone Number: 501-663-3631

THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE for THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Pre-Service Music

May God Bestow on Us His Grace - Robert Lind

Lighting of the Chancel Candles

Prelude

What Wondrous Love is This - Duane Funderburk

Ringling of the Church Bell

Opening Hymn: May God Bestow on Us His Grace

LSB 824

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Exhortation

1 John 1:8-9

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 (8:15)

John 20:19–23

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Declaration of Grace (10:45)

John 1:12; Philippians 1:6

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen**

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 69:14–16; antiphon: Ps. 69:9

P For zeal for your house has consumed me,

C **and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.**

P Deliver me from sinking in the mire;

C **let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.**

P Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,

C **or the pit close its mouth over me.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Anthem

The Lamb – Gerald Coleman

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1–17

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Heb. 12:2



[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse of the Day

John 2:19

P Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Verse for Lent

Joel 2:13



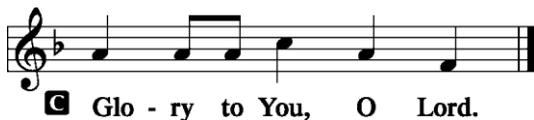
C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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Holy Gospel

John 2:13–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The reading of the Holy Gospel.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn: The Law of God Is Good and Wise

LSB 579

Sermon

Exodus 20:1–17

“God’s Law – Still Good and Wise”

Stand

Nicene Creed (8:15)

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen**

Apostles' Creed (10:45)

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen**

Prayer of the Church

☩ Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Each petition ends with the following:

☩ Lord, in Your mercy,
☩ hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with the following:

☩ Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy;
through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
☩ Amen

Sit

Offering

The Law of God Is Good and Wise - J. Wayne Kerr

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

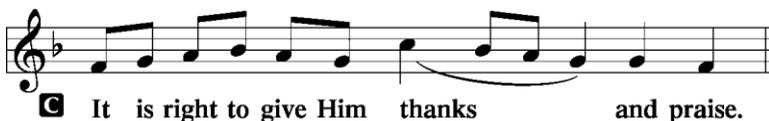
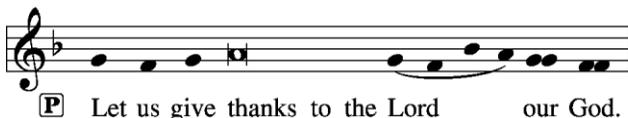
C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

10:45 Service continues on page 16

Service of the Sacrament (8:15)

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Proclamation of Christ

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

- 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**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - - men.

Closing Hymn: Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

LSB 865

Postlude

Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain - Kevin Hildebrand



Service Concludes (10:45)

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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

Concluding Collect

P Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen

Closing Hymn: Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

LSB 865

Postlude

Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain - Kevin Hildebrand



Acknowledgments

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WEEK AT GRACE

- SUNDAY:** 8:15 a.m. – Divine Service with Holy Communion
Coffee and Fellowship in the Parlor
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School downstairs in Parker Hall
9:45 a.m. – Junior and Senior High classes downstairs in the church
9:45 a.m. – Pastor Walter’s Bible Class upstairs in Parker Hall
10:45 a.m. – Divine Service
4:00 p.m. – Financial Peace University in Parker Hall
- MON - FRI:** 7:30 a.m. – Early Childhood Development Center
- MONDAY:** 7:00 p.m. – Young Adult Bible Study
- TUESDAY:** 10:00 a.m. – Women’s Lenten Bible Study
5:15 p.m. – 8th Grade Confirmation
5:30 p.m. – Handbell Choir
6:30 p.m. – Adult Choir
- WEDNESDAY:** 6:30 a.m. – Men’s Bible Study (St. Vincent’s)
5:30 p.m. – Lenten Dinner
7:00 p.m. – Midweek Lenten Service
- THURSDAY:** 12:00 noon – Noon Devotions with Pastor
5:15 p.m. – 7th Grade Confirmation
- NEXT SUNDAY:** 9:50 a.m. – Special Voters’ Meeting in Parker Hall

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL - Today the Sunday School students study the account “Jesus Calms a Storm.” Just as Jesus calmed the storm with His Word for the frightened disciples, so He calms and ends the storm of sin and death by taking our sin upon Himself and dying in our place so we may live eternally. *Consider discussing, “What did Jesus do to calm the storm? How does Jesus calm the storms in our life?”*

PASTOR WALTER’S CLASS meets upstairs in Parker Hall. Today Pastor concludes his study on *Mormonism*.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for children ages 3 years through 6th grade meet in the lower level of the Family Life Center. **JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES** meet in classrooms downstairs in the church.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Our **Young Adult Bible Study** group continues to meet every other Monday. Their meetings this month are March 9th and March 23rd. Please call or e-mail Chaplain David Witte for information as to where they will meet. Contact David at drwitte@gmail.com or 630-738-3835.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO:

Mar. 9 – Wes Mainard

Mar. 10 – Lydia Bemberg

Mar. 13 – Jeremy Hammond

Mar. 14 – Amy Yovanovich

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Jim Gray is recovering following surgery.

Grant Geuther is hospitalized at the VA Fort Roots in North Little Rock.

Evelyn Chotkowski is in rehab at Good Shepherd Nursing and Rehabilitation, Room 206.

Beth Paulson is continuing her recovery at home.

Joan Ann Olsen is in The Lakes at Maumelle Health and Rehab.

Dennis Fastenau is continuing chemotherapy treatment.

LAST WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP – Attendance: Sunday 3/1: 135 (8:15 – 63 and 10:45 – 72). Lenten Service 3/4: Cancelled due to weather. **Offerings: Sunday 3/1: \$8,730.00. Lenten Offering: \$110.00. Missions: \$125.00. Memorials: \$50.00. Building Fund: \$425.00. Scholarship Fund: \$125.00.**

LENTEN SERVICE - The mid-week Lenten Services will continue this Wednesday, **March 11th, at 7:00 p.m.** Our Lenten theme is **THE PARABLES OF LENT**. Dinner will be served before the service at 5:30 p.m. in Parker Hall. The Adult Choir will be serving a variety of soups and salad.

8th CONFIRMATION is Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. in the Parlor.

7th CONFIRMATION is Thursday at 5:15 p.m. in the Parlor.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING - A Special Voters' Meeting has been called for next **Sunday, March 15th**, at 9:50 a.m. in Parker Hall. The sole purpose of this meeting is to consider a resolution from the Board of Elders to Call Chaplain David Witte to be an unpaid Assistant Pastor. This Call is necessary for Chaplain Witte's colloquy process to be completed so that he might become a rostered LCMS ordained minister so that he might receive an endorsement as an LCMS military chaplain from the synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces. This will be the only order of business.

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP – Sundays in March and April are available to serve refreshments in the Parlor between services. Please check the list on the bulletin board by the Parlor and sign up for a Sunday on which you want to serve.

WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - During the Season of Lent Pastor Walter will begin conducting a Women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the downstairs classroom in the original church building. This Bible Study will be in conjunction with the Midweek Lenten theme, **The Parables Of Lent**. The study will take an in-depth look at the Parable used in the Lenten Service held the previous week. If you have any questions about this Bible Study offering, please contact Pastor Walter.

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE – The *Grace Women in Mission* (also known as Grace Evening Guild) is sponsoring the **Grace Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale** on **Sunday, March 29th**, in Parker Hall following the 8:15 Service. We will graciously accept baked goods from anyone in our congregation. Please join us in making this a great bake sale by bringing your baked goodies on Sunday morning, March 29th. All bake goods are acceptable and please price your own goods. This is a great opportunity to purchase baked items for Easter. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE - The Women of Grace's annual *White Elephant Sale* has been rescheduled for Thursday, **March 19th**, at **6:00 p.m.** in the Parlor. Bring a new or used item and be sure to wrap it for the auction. We will decide who will benefit from the proceeds before the auction begins. This is always a fun evening and we encourage you to join us!! All Grace women are invited to join in the fun!! If you have any questions contact Pat Funk, Angie Proud or Judy Rivers.

ALTAR GUILD - The Altar Guild Schedule for 2015 is posted on the bulletin board by the Parlor. There are several months available in each Sunday Service. Please sign up for the month and service where you would like to serve. If you haven't served before, contact Angie Proud for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! This year's **Christ Lutheran School Auction**, "Spring into Auction with CLS" will be held March 14th, at Pleasant Valley Country Club. For ticket information or to make a donation, please contact TJ Videll at tedividell@yahoo.com or 454-4446 or Jill Settle at jill_settle@yahoo.com or 673-4040.

A GIFT was given to Grace in honor of Molly Beethe's third birthday by her grandparents, Ivan and Irene Beethe to be used in the Church Nursery.

MEMORIALS -

IN MEMORY OF MRS. SANDY HAMMOND – Mother of Jeremy Hammond
TO THE GRACE BUILDING FUND

By Tim and Sandy Sweeney

THE PARABLES OF LENT

Lenten Services - 7:00 p.m.
Lenten Dinners - 5:30 p.m. in Parker Hall

Lent Three – March 11 – “Receive Mercy: The Good Samaritan”
Dinner served by the Adult Choir – Various Soups and Salad

Lent Four – March 18 – “Receive Grace: The Workers in the Vineyard”
Dinner served by the Grace Youth – Baked Potato Bar

Lent Five – March 25 – “Receive Forgiveness: The Prodigal Son”
Dinner served by the Board of Parish Fellowship - Chili