



Ash Wednesday

February 10, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Prelude Partita on "Lord Jesus, Think on Me" by Todd Kendall
(please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation)

Welcome and Greeting

P: 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

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness 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.

Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"

#793

Please be seated

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. ¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Reading Notes

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

Chancel Choir Behold My Savior's Grief by Robert A. Roesch

Psalm 51:1-17



Have mer-cy on me, O God, ac-cord-ing to your stead-fast love.

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice. R**
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.
- ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. **R**

Opening Hymn

We are a "singing church," so we follow the advice of the apostle Paul to teach and admonish "one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"

(Colossians 3:16).

Gospel

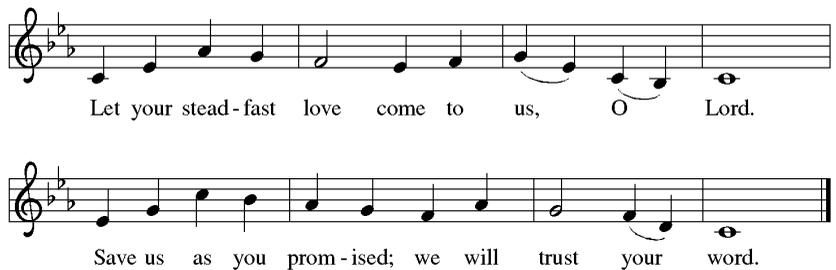
The Gospel Lesson is a selection from the accounts of the life of our Lord recorded by the four evangelists, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John. Because Christ is with us in the Gospel reading, we stand to honor his presence. We also sing short verses before and after the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Notes

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord
C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

Portrayal: Faces in a Crowd: The Centurion

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day “Eternal Lord of Love” #321

Creed

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

Prayers of the People

L: Hear us, O God

C: Your mercy is great.

P: To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

All: God of love, have mercy on us. Pour out your Spirit upon us. Center us in worship. Hold us in grace. Strengthen us in love. Send us forth in mission. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Creed

The Creed is our response to God's speaking to us. Martyrs and saints have been confessing this creed since 325 A.D. The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" which means, "I believe!"

Prayers of the People

This prayer in the service follows the directive of the Apostle Paul to young Timothy, a pastor: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for Kings and all those in authority, that we may live in peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: And also with you!

Please be seated

Announcements

The Offering

Offertory

“Fantasia”

by Johann Krieger

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Invitation to Lent

P: 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.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you, Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in by blood, shed for you

and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Lord's Prayer

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

Invitation to the Table

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

Communion and Imposition of Ashes

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Instructions for Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

We will take part in the Imposition of Ashes and distribution of Holy Communion at the same time today. Please come forward and if you would like to receive ashes, please stop at the station. After receiving ashes, please continue forward and receive a cup. Proceed to the kneeler, filling in from the outside toward the center. You will receive the bread and either wine or grape juice. If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, simply hold your hand over your cup to indicate your preference to the communion assistants.

Please be seated

Distribution Hymns: 484, 496, 515, 472(3x)

Prayer after Communion

P: O God, we thank you for gathering and feeding us as a mother hen embraces her young. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Lord Jesus, Think On Me" #599

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Awake, Thou Wintry Earth" by Tom Birchwood

Blessing

Here as we leave to continue our journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land, God uses the pastor to say words that were said first through Aaron in the wilderness more than 3,000 years ago.

Lent
B E G I N S

**The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to bring
the good news of God's saving grace, through Jesus Christ's life, death
and resurrection to all to be free to be the people of God.**

Welcome! *If this is your first time worshipping at Grace Lutheran, the Visitor Center in the Gathering Hall (right outside the sanctuary) has information for you about our congregation. Please sign the guest book, ask questions, say hello! If you are interested in finding out more about membership at Grace, please contact Pastor Mike at Mike@gracedm.org, 515-276-6873.*

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

Please sign the ***Attendance Registration*** sheets which are found in each pew.

Ministers of God—the people of Grace

Pastor – The Rev. Michael Schmidt

Director of Laity Ministries – Stephanie Johnson

Director of Music Ministries – Emma Stammer

Developer of Youth and Family Ministry – Ellen Rothweiler

Organist - Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

Grace Kids Care Director - Heather Nelson

Church Administrator - Jacquelyn Holmes

Director of Communications - Michelle Voelker

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Ushers – Kevin Krause and Jay Wangerin

Acolytes — Drake Carney, Ivy Lawson

Lector – Carol Woodruff

Assisting with Imposition of Ashes — Bill Kallestad

Communion Assistants — Carla Peterman, Doug Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Susanne Carney, Carol Woodruff, Doug Johnson, Ellen Rothweiler

Altar Guild – Marion Nehmer, Barb Zimany

Counters – Mark Stumme and Tom McCleary



3010 52nd St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
Pastor Michael Schmidt
515-276-6873
worship@gracedm.org
www.gracedm.org