



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 9, 2025

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS

On our Lenten journey, Jesus meets us on the ancestral land of the Dakota and Ojibwe peoples. And just as government and religion joined forces in Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, we acknowledge that church and state worked together to eliminate this land's indigenous inhabitants.

In this season of repentance, God replaces our stony hearts with hearts that ache: for stolen children suffering abuse in church-run schools; for our homes built on discarded treaties; for unhoused indigenous neighbors displaced again and again. Into our broken hearts, the Holy Spirit pours love and power, that we may renounce evil and rise to follow Jesus: restoring relationships, resources, and land.

When you see this symbol ✠ you're invited to stand as you are able.

We love to sing! When music and words are not printed in the bulletin, you can find the song in the red hymnal underneath the chairs at the page number listed.

Children belong in worship! We recognize that children aren't wired to "sit still" for an hour, so we welcome their quiet movement, joyous singing, and encourage their involvement in worship. Children of any age may pick out a book, toy, or art supplies in the Commons for use during the service.

Help love reach beyond these walls. You can give online at gracemempls.org/give or scan the code at the right. You can also place your offering in the plate as you come up for communion (envelopes are on the cart in the Commons).



All are welcome at Jesus' table to receive holy communion. We set the table with wheat bread, gluten-free crackers, white grape juice, and red wine.

Join us for fellowship time! All are invited to stay after worship for coffee, treats, and community connection in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Stay connected to what's happening at Grace: sign up for our weekly online newsletter, "The Scroll." Find the latest editions and the link to subscribe on our home page at gracemempls.org.

Two single-stall and wheelchair-accessible restrooms are just outside the sanctuary in the Commons, and another one is down the hallway across from the gym.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

The grace of our savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#742

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Trusting in God's grace, let us go together to the river of life-giving water.



As I went down to the ri - ver to pray
stu - dy - ing a - bout that good old way and
who shall wear the star - ry crown Good Lord show me the way
1. O sin - ners, let's go down, let's go down, come on down,
O sin - ners, let's go down, down to the ri - ver to pray.

God of truth,
we know too well
how our hearts get hurt and hardened,
how our hands are slow to reach out
when we or others are in need,
how our feet stray from the path of justice.
Good Lord, show us the way.

*As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show me the way!*

*O hurting, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O hurting, let's go down, down to the river to pray.*

In this season of searching honesty,
wash us and make us new.

In confronting evil and embracing love,
wash us and make us new.

In your river of life forever flowing,
wash us and make us new.

Good Lord, show us the way.

*As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show me the way!*

O loved ones, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O loved ones, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

FORGIVENESS & PEACE

God whose mercy is without end became one with us
in Jesus Christ, meeting us in our brokenness and pain.

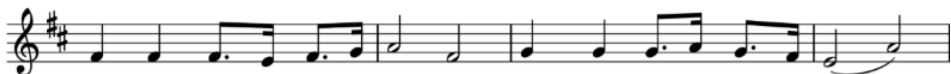
In Christ, God declares our sin uncounted,
our muddiness washed clean in the river of new life. **Amen.**

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

*Please share a sign of peace with others as you are comfortable. When the
hymn of praise begins, you may return to your seats and remain standing.*



✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

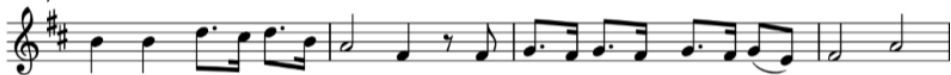


1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

OBJECT LESSON

Any children who are interested and comfortable are invited to come forward for a reflection and short prayer. Parents and guardians are welcome too!

CHORAL OFFERING

As we prepare to hear the Word, music opens our hearts to receive God's blessing.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

What does the LORD your God ask of you? Only this: to revere the LORD your God by walking in all God's ways, by loving and serving the LORD your God with all your heart and being, and by keeping the LORD's commandments and regulations that I'm commanding you right now. It's for your own good!

Clearly, the LORD owns the sky, the highest heavens, the earth, and everything in it. But the LORD adored your ancestors, loving them and choosing the descendants that followed them—you!—from all other people. That's how things still stand now. So circumcise your hearts and stop being so stubborn, because the LORD your God is the God of all gods and LORD of all lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God who doesn't play favorites and doesn't take bribes. The LORD enacts justice for orphans and widows,

and loves immigrants, giving them food and clothing. That means you must also love immigrants because you were immigrants in Egypt.

Revere the LORD your God, serve and cling to God, swear by that holy name alone! The LORD is your praise and your God—the one who performed these great and awesome acts that you witnessed with your very own eyes. Your ancestors went down to Egypt with a total of seventy people, but now look! The LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the nighttime sky!

This is the word of life.
Thanks be to God.

✠ GOSPEL CHANT

Let us rise and greet Jesus in the Gospel



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
light, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

✠ GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:25-37

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What is written in the Torah? How do you interpret it?”

He responded, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’

“What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?”

Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

This is the Good News.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Guest preacher Lori Youngvorst

Pastor Lori Youngvorst (she/her) has served as an Associate Pastor at Grace Lutheran NE and as Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Care at Mount Olivet Careview Home in South Minneapolis. She is currently enjoying the discovery of retirement.

✠ HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

#715

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In prayer, let call upon God's presence to bless the earth and its peoples.



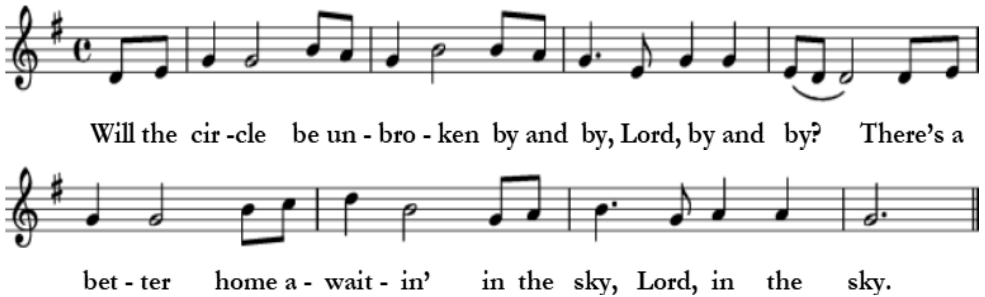
1 Come by here, my Lord, come by here; come by here, my Lord, come by here;
come by here, my Lord, come by here; O Lord, come by here.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Let us offer our lives to God. You can give online at gracenempls.org/give or scan the code at the right. You can also place your offering in the plate as you come up for communion.



✠ COMMUNION: SINGING THE STORY



Will the cir - cle be un - bro - ken by and by, Lord, by and by? There's a
bet - ter home a - wait - in' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.

✠ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

✠ COMMUNION: PRAYER

...And let the church say, Amen! **Amen!**

Join the "Amen!" as you are invited.

With the boldness of God's children, let us pray...

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.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION: SHARING THE MEAL

In this simple meal, may Jesus Christ
 give you strength for the journey. **Amen.**

All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you wish to receive, ushers will invite you forward. The pastor will place a piece of bread or a gluten-free cracker in your cupped hand as you hear "Body of Christ, given for you." In the brass trays are cups of red wine or golden grape juice. Take a small cup as you hear, "Cup of Christ, given for you." You may respond with "Amen," "Thank you," or with quiet acceptance.

If you cannot come forward but wish to receive communion or a blessing, please let an usher know and the servers will come to you. If for any reason you do not wish to receive, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing with your arms crossed over your chest.

As we celebrate Communion, you may join in singing:

HYMN

Deep River

Refrain

Deep riv - er, my home is o - ver Jor - dan,
 deep riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to camp - ground.
 1 Oh, don't you want to go to that gos - pel feast, that
 prom - ised land where all is peace? Oh,

Refrain

✠ HYMN

One Bread, One Body

#496

✠ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Now may the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray: **God of the mountain, the valley,
and everything in between, make this meal a fresh start:
new courage to meet tomorrow's challenges,
new-found faith in your grace today,
renewed love to share with everyone, everywhere,
in Jesus' holy name. Amen.**



✠ BENEDICTION

In this holy season of Lent,
may you fast from worry and feast on trust;
may you fast from haste and feast on patience;
may you fast from judgment and feast on compassion;
may you fast from resentment and feast on forgiveness;
sustained and redeemed by the triune God. **Amen.**

✠ HYMN

Lead Me, Guide Me

#768

✠ SENDING

Go in peace. God meets you in the midst of life.
We will. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

Front cover: Sanctified Art • All other images © 2025 sundaysandseasons.com. • Land acknowledgement created in collaboration with Grace's racial justice team. • Scripture citations based on the Common English Bible © 2011 CEB. • Today's liturgy is adapted from "An Unbroken Circle" © 2017 Grace Lutheran Church of Northeast Minneapolis.

Music streamed under OneLicense A-737608. • "Down to the River to Pray." Words and Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain. • "Shall We Gather at the River?" Words and music: Robert Lowry, 1864. • "Do Lord, Remember Me." Words and music: African American spiritual. Public Domain. • "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" Words: Ada R. Habershon, 1907. Music: Charles H. Gabriel, 1907. Public Domain. • "Deep River." Words and music: African American spiritual. Public Domain. •

LENTEN OFFERINGS AT GRACE LUTHERAN NE

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Beginning March 12th at 6pm. Join us on Wednesdays in the Multipurpose Room for a Soup Dinner and then in the Sanctuary at 6:30 for sung Holden Evening Prayer.

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us Sunday, April 13th at 10AM for worship as we celebrate Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Join us April 17th at 6pm for dinner and worship in the sanctuary.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Join us April 18th at 6pm for worship in the sanctuary.

EASTER VIGIL WORSHIP

Join us April 19th at 7:30pm for worship at Gustavus Adolphus NE. Refreshments will be provided after the service!





ELCA • LGBTQ+ Affirming

Worship with us Sundays at 10 AM

1500 6th Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 • 612-788-2444

www.gracenempls.org

We are called
to love God,
serve neighbors, and
tell the story of Jesus Christ,
welcoming all.



**Help love reach
beyond these walls.**
Scan this QR code
with your phone's
camera app
to give online.

**We're the home of
Little Kitchen Food Shelf,**
a no-boundaries, no-restrictions
food shelf serving all people.

**Little Kitchen
FoodShelf** 

Interested in volunteering?

Find opportunities to serve at gracenempls.org/foodshelf
or email Lynn Mena at admin@gracenempls.org

Need food? Pre-register by phone

9 - 11 AM Monday - Friday, 612-788-2444

Grace Center
for community life

**We're the founders of
Grace Center for Community Life**
empowering lives through
faith, learning, and service.

Interested in reserving space at Grace Center?

Call 612-810-6988 or email Lorrie Stromme at
Lorrie@GraceCtr.org