

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 23, 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 \maltese 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 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 (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 <u>gracenempls.org</u>.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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



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.

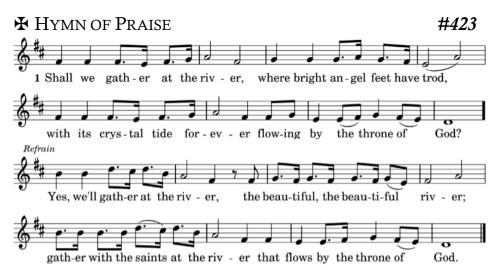
As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way and who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way!

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.



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 5:12-15

Keep the Sabbath day and treat it as holy, exactly as the Lord your God commanded: Six days you may work and do all your tasks, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Don't do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your oxen or donkeys or any of your animals, or the immigrant who is living among you—so that your male and female servants can rest just like you. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, but the Lord your God brought you out of there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. That's why the Lord your God commands you to keep the Sabbath day.

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

★ Gospel Chant

#773

Let us rise and greet Jesus in the Gospel



★ Gospel Reading

Luke 13:6-9

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus told this parable: "A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. He said to his gardener, 'Look, I've come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I've never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil's nutrients?' The gardener responded, 'Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

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



SERMON

Guest preacher Brenna Zeimet

This Sunday's guest preacher is Brenna Zeimet (she/her). Brenna and her family have called Grace home since 2021. Before coming to Grace, she was a pastor at a small church in Columbia Heights for 15 years. Brenna serves as Grace's council president and is passionate about social justice, and she'd love to partner with you to make positive change in our world.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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



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.







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.

Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, shared with friend and foe alike. "Take and eat, this is my body. In this meal I'll be by your side." Will the circle be unbroken...

"Drink this cup and find forgiveness.

When you do these things, recall:

Heaven's banquet is a-coming!

I will feast again with you all."

Will the circle be unbroken...

★ 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

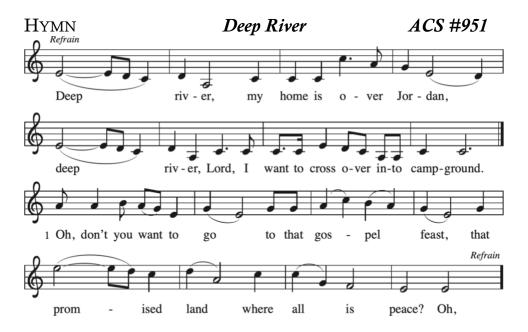
In this simple meal, may Jesus Christ give you strength for the journey. **Amen.**

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:





★ HYMNBy Your Hand You Feed Your People#469★ HYMNWe Come to the Hungry Feast#479

₩ 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.** **¥** SENDING

Go in peace. God meets you in the midst of life.

We will. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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WELCOME PASTOR ANDREW!

Pastor Andrew will begin at Grace on March 24th! Write a note to leave in their office or send a welcome email to pastor@gracenempls.org!





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.



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



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