



## 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 ☩ 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](https://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 [gracenempls.org](https://gracenempls.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

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

#879

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a 3/4 measure followed by a 4/4 measure. The second staff is 4/4. The third staff is 4/4. The fourth staff is 4/4. The fifth staff is 4/4.

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

#423

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-tiful, 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 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*



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 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.*

# ✠ HYMN

## 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus



- 1 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to take him at his word,
- 2 O how sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to trust his cleans-ing blood,
- 3 Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, just from sin and self to cease,
- 4 I'm so glad I learned to trust you, pre-cious Je - sus, Sav - ior, Friend,



just to rest up - on his prom-ise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord,"  
just in sim - ple faith to plunge me 'neath the heal - ing, cleans-ing flood!  
just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing life and rest, and joy and peace.  
and I know that you are with me, will be with me to the end.



### Refrain



Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!



Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust him more!



## 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](http://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.

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:*



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 *By Your Hand You Feed Your People* #469

✠ HYMN *We 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 24<sup>th</sup>! Write a note to leave in their office or send a welcome email to [pastor@gracenempls.org](mailto:pastor@gracenempls.org)!





**ELCA • LGBTQ+ Affirming**

**Worship with us Sundays at 10 AM**

**1500 6<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 • 612-788-2444**

**[www.gracenempls.org](http://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** 

The logo for Little Kitchen FoodShelf includes a small graphic of a cluster of dark, round objects, possibly representing food or a community.

**Interested in volunteering?**

Find opportunities to serve at [gracenempls.org/foodshelf](http://gracenempls.org/foodshelf)  
or email Lynn Mena at [admin@gracenempls.org](mailto: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.

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