**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**Second Sunday in Lent February 28, 2021**



***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*The second covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God’s promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham’s faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

*Helpful Reminders for House Church:*

* *Mute your mic during hymns.*
* *You may unmute for all group responses. Remember that your host can mute you but cannot unmute you; you must unmute your mic yourself.*
* *If you are joining by phone, move the mouthpiece away from your mouth unless you are speaking, to avoid broadcasting your breathing.*
* *Avoid background conversations when your mic is unmuted.*
* *THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!*

**Gathering**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

**Prelude *(Please mute your mic for the prelude)***

**Confession and Forgiveness *(You may unmute your mic)***

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,*

*as the worship leader begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God, our sins are **☩** forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Together let us journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #806 O God, My Faithful God, sts. 1,2,4

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***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Greeting**

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**

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death into the means of life for us. Make our hearts so grateful for the cross of Christ that we willingly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Word**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

**First Lesson Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah’s womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God’s promise.*

1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” 3Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”
  15God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 22:23-31**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)*

23You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory. Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.
24**For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord‘s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.**
25From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.
26**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.
28**For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.**
29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.
30**Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
31They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”

**Second Lesson Romans 4:13-25**

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

13The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
  16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” 19He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. 20No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 23Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, 24but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.**

The holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel *(Please mute your mic)*  Mark 8:31-38**

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter’s response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

31[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”
  34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**  The Rev. Melody Eastman

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 Intercession**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation’s well-being. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving especially Rich, Helen, Sigrid, Dorothy, Anita, Dolores, Carol, Norma, Dorothy, and those we name before you now. . . Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us into this community, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. This week we thank you for the witness of Paul Griffin celebrating his 90th birthday, and Jerry & Brigitte Miller celebrating their 57th anniversary, and we ask that you bless their celebrations with joy. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We await the day of Christ’s coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*If there are others in your household you may share the peace with them.*

 *If your House Church is celebrating Communion, refer to that liturgy here.*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Sending**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

**Blessing**

We are what God made us to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve our neighbor. God bless us **☩** that we may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Sending Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #808 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

**![C:\Users\Grace Lutheran\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\BQGT0Y8H\Lord_Jesus,_You_Shall_Be_My_Song_Jésus,_je_voudrais_te_chanter_(Melody)[1].tif]()**

 ***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Sent to the World**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

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**Current Prayer Requests**

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Paul Griffin Member 90th Birthday 3/3

Jerry & Brigitte Miller Members 57th Anniversary 3/6

Welcome to our New Members Bradford Thompson and Judy Zipprich 2/14

Helen Sladek Member Healing & Strength

Rich Davison Member Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Member Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracy Member Healing & Strength

Ruthie Maddock Friend of the Thompsons Healing & Strength

Sally and Eberhard Slenczka Parents of Karin Slenczka Healing & Strength

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Anita Blakemore, Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**Weekly Announcements**

**Articles and Photos for the April Issue of *Grace To You* are due to the church office on Wednesday, March 3 to arrive in homes the week of March 21.**

**Midweek Lent Worship via Zoom, featuring excerpts from Holden Evening Prayer, Wednesdays at 7:00:** Join Pastor Melody and Bradford for a time of prayer and centering, along with reflections on ***Community as Spiritual Discipline: Living Out Faith in Democracy***. Pastor Melody will explore many of the questions about whether, when and how collective faith impacts our society. We will look at scriptural foundations, the experience and teachings of Luther, boundaries established in our Constitution, and the praxis of the ELCA. (And yes, it *is* a spiritual discipline!)

Here’s the Zoom link for *Community as Spiritual Discipline: Practicing Faith in a Democracy*:

Grace Lutheran is inviting you Wednesday Lent Worship via Zoom:

Topic: Wednesday Lent Worship

Time: Feb 24, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81452909427?pwd=ekI1bHBGME1ydmxiVklxUjkzUndFQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 5290 9427

Passcode: 768563

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81452909427#,,,,\*768563# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,81452909427#,,,,\*768563# US (New York)

Dial by your location

        +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 814 5290 9427

Passcode: 768563

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcCDyIdMZ8>

**Easter Flowers:** Even though we will be worshipping via Live Video Zoom service, its Easter and we would like to decorate the altar with Easter flowers. If you are interested in ordering a flowering plant, go to Grace's web site to place an order. **Orders need to be placed by March 8.** We will use them for Easter morning only, so please come to the church starting Monday morning to pick them up. Those not picked up by Wed April 7 will be donated.

**Your choices are:  White Azalea $23    Yellow Begonia $18   Pink Hydrangea $25**

You may wish to place them in honor or memory of a loved one, and you can indicate that in your order.

**House Church Worship via phone or internet every Sunday morning at 9:30am!** We currently have five “House Churches” of worshipping members (each House Church consisting of 6-8 members/families meeting via Zoom or calling in by phone.) If you are unsure how to sign on, go ahead and register and let us know you need some help; we’ll walk you through it! We would be so blessed to have you join us. Register online for a House Church at [graceglenellyn.org](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fgraceglenellyn.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0Hfv_r7Lkk0l-PSfwxo5IuvGdumHQ3QCEP7v4ZvaR0WOJKVA5hbrjxKAE&h=AT1soNxFTUJFeYviMArEGKelFeVj5prKjMKXk0UJTSFn5xaDSLNHlHWl9jolaFvljgE6OlBV9vpq3vIE5HfsX4lEUbwYpfdYpMW57h6Tyc58-9jrGuramUJOJJ1Qd_RvJw&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2EpYQU1esaMoWfP5JtqUBhBqXEjGx5atvDW6kLdBJviMugmDClI27DYHudyuPviP9Hv6sjAHveGxQGTojgtZKHh3Ar39pGN4cSEtsbiD_E96uHBoM53nY40A4mpgsxH7Ee_La5kZ5CLFMRaCbeBMrb7-BmRa8JDzOlS6vBJ2YxwbmuqBlPHi9nylzaWrSwmlhCSx9Ig0m3keY) (on the main page Announcements).

**Contributions to Grace:** You may continue to mail your contributions, including your weekly Lent offerings, to the church office; have your bank mail your contribution to the church office; or contribute on-line through Grace’s website. Please know, pandemic or no, our mission continues! Thank you for your continued support of our ministries at Grace Lutheran.

Contributions to **Grace’s Mortgage Reduction Fund** are always welcome! Indicate on the contribution that it is for the Mortgage Reduction Fund. Our goal is to make one more additional payment when our loan comes up for renewal in October!

**Help Needed for Drive-thru Food Collection:** Grace will again staff the drive-thru food collection that takes place the first Friday of each month for the GE Food Pantry. The event will be **Friday, March 5, from 9am-noon**. Three people are needed for each shift, either 9-10:30am or 10:30am-noon. Please contact Carol Asselmeier at carolassel@aol.com if you can help! Thanks.

**Food Pantry Needs:** Tomato Sauce/Paste/Diced; Olives/Pickles; Ketchup; Apple Sauce; Manwich; Syrup; BBQ Sauce; Cookies; Liquid Hand Soap.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

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