**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

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

**Third Sunday in Lent March 7, 2021**



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

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*The third covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the central one of Israel’s history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God’s liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.*

*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 #801 Change My Heart, O God

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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**

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through 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 Exodus 20:1-17**

*After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.*

1God spoke all these words:
  2I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3you shall have no other gods before me.
  4You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.
  7You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
  8Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.
  12Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
  13You shall not murder.
  14You shall not commit adultery.
  15You shall not steal.
  16You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
  17You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 19**

*The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)*

1The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.
2**One day tells its tale to another,** **and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
3Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
4**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,** **where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
5It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**6It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
7The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
8**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;** **the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

9The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
10**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,** **sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
11By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
12**Who can detect one’s own offenses?** **Cleanse me from my secret faults.**
13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
14**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,** **O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

**Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

*The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul’s preaching is Christ crucified.*

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**We proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

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

**Gospel *(Please mute your mic)*  John 2:13-22**

*Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.*

13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” 17His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” 18The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” 19Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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.*

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people’s words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering, especially Sigrid, Dorothy, Rich, Helen, Anita, Dolores, Carol, Norma, Dorothy, and those we name before you now . . . Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died. Be with Ken and all the family and friends of Joan Frank who mourn her death, and comfort them in the promise of eternal life. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let your nearness increase the joy of those who celebrate, especially Paul Griffin on his 90th birthday and Jerry & Brigitte Miller on their 57th wedding anniversary. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for Perpetua, Felicity, and all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. 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**

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

**Sending Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

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 ***(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

Family and Friends of Joan Frank Member Comfort in Grief

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**

**COVID 19 Vaccination Clinic (Moderna) This Saturday: The link for registration will be on Grace's website starting at noon on Thursday for the general public who qualify to receive the vaccine. You must be available to receive Dose 1 on Saturday, March 6 between 9 and 4 and receive Dose 2 on Saturday, April 3 between 9 and 4.** It was agreed (between Grace, the Food Pantry and the Senior Center) that we’d give the folks who indicated interest earlier until Thursday noon to register before opening it up to the general public. **www.GraceGlenEllyn.org**

**Grace is Sponsoring a Drive-Through Food Collection on Friday, March 5:** Please alert your friends, family, neighbors and clubs that we are hosting the drive-through collection for the Food Pantry next **Friday, March 5 from 9am-Noon**.

Grace members will be on hand to collect donations - let’s be sure we get a bunch! Please send an email, post on social media and bring the latest list of needs on your next shopping trip in order to support the drive. Thanks! Carol Asselmeier

**This week’s most needed items:** Diced Tomatoes; Olives/Pickles; Ketchup; Canned Pears; Sugar; Syrup; Cooking Oil; Cookies; Boxed Baking Mixes; Paper Towels.

**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 website 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 Wednesday, 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) or contact Jon Milleville.

**Contributions to Grace:** You may continue to mail your contributions, including your weekly Lenten offering, 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!

**Please continue to pray for the following people:**

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

Family and Friends of Joan Frank, Member, Comfort in Grief

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

**"Share our Spirits" Food Pantry Fundraiser is Back - Now Featuring Scotch!** Specialty spirits expert, Patrick Brophy, will host a fundraiser to benefit the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. By popular demand after the January Bourbon/Whiskey event, the focus will be on Scotch. Participants will be guided through a tasting **via Zoom starting at 7pm on Friday, March 26**. Cost is $200 per Zoom and participants can pick up their beverage samples and accoutrements – enough for 2 participants - in advance at the Pantry. Space is limited to 20 Zooms, so register early to reserve your spot. All proceeds will benefit the Pantry.  **Sign up on the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Website**

**Join us for Wednesdays in Lent for *Community as Spiritual Discipline:* *Faithful engagement in Public Life within a Democracy:***People have a lot of questions about how much of a role the Church should play in public life, social issues and (heaven save us) politics. When, where and how should the Church involve itself in public issues? Should the Church ever address political leaders? Should the Church ever endorse political leaders? What are the limits set by our constitution? And why is this a *spiritual* issue?

**Wednesday, March 3: What do Luther and the ELCA say?**

**Wednesday, March 10: What does the U.S. Constitution say?**

**​Wednesday, March 17: What does Community Spiritual Discipline look like?**

Join us for Zoom worship using *Holden Evening Prayer,* ​with scripture and reflection, from 7:00-7:30. Join Zoom Meeting:

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81452909427?pwd=ekI1bHBGME1ydmxiVklxUjkzUndFQT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81452909427?pwd=ekI1bHBGME1ydmxiVklxUjkzUndFQT09)

Meeting ID: 814 5290 9427

Passcode: 768563

One tap mobile

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+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>

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

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