

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023—8:30am**



Grace Lutheran Church

521 Providence Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325
757-420-4704

www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org



<https://linktr.ee/gracelutheran>

Pastor—The Rev. Leslie D. Weber (she/her/hers)
Minister of Music—Morgan Hatfield (they/she)

Our Mission Statement:

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

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Page numbers (p.) are in front half of the hymnal.
Hymn numbers (#) are in back half of the hymnal.
Everyone is invited to join in **bolded responses**.
+ Please stand as you are able.

+ Gathering +

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

Prelude

“Here I Am Lord”
arr. Jack Schrader

+ Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✚ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

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+ Gathering Song

“God is Good All the Time”

God is good all the time,
He put a song of praise in this heart of mine;
God is good all the time,
through the darkest night His light will shine.
God is good, God is good all the time.

If you're walkin' through the valley, and there are shadows all around;
Do not fear, He will guide you, He will keep you safe and sound.
'Cause He has promised to never leave you nor forsake you,
and His Word is true.

We were sinners, so unworthy, still for us He chose to die,
filled us with His Holy Spirit, now we can stand and testify
that His love is everlasting and His mercies, they will never end.

Though I may not understand all the plans You have for me;
My life is in Your hands, and, through the eyes of faith, I can clearly see.

God is good, He's so good, God is good He's so good, God is good,
He's so good all the time.

Don Moen & Paul Overstreet © 1995 Scarlet Moon Music, Inc.

+ Prayer of the Day

ELW p.28

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.
By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness
of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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+Word+

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

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from First Samuel.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise

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and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from Ephesians.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

+ Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and



mer-cy; Come, seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

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+ Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

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

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not

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know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

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Young at Heart Message & Sermon

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

+ Song of the Day

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy rains, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine. But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio
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+ Nicene Creed

p. 104

With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

* universal

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+ Prayers of Intercession sung refrain: “O God, We Call” ACS#1075
Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all of creation.

Refrain: **O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep inside we
yearn, from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside
we yearn for you.**

Linnea Good, b. 1962

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all.

Refrain

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve, especially those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause for names*).

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Refrain

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+ Peace

+Meal+

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Thank you for supporting the mission of the church as you are able! Electronic donations can be made at

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611.

*Checks can be also be sent to church:
521 Providence Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23325*



+ Offering Prayer

Please stand as you are able.
Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

+ Great Thanksgiving

ELW p.206

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ Thanksgiving at the Table

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+ Lord's Prayer

ELW p.163

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

+ Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Notes about Communion Distribution at Grace

When we're gathered around the table, there is enough food, drink, blessing, space and time for all to share in Holy Communion! GLC practices Eucharistic hospitality since we trust that God welcomes all who come to the table where Christ is both host and meal.

Wine (red) and grape juice (white) are distributed in individual cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

If you prefer to stay in the pew, there are prepackaged kits (wine, juice, and gluten free options) available at the sanctuary doors. If you prefer not to receive the wafer and wine/grape juice, you may kneel or stand at the rail with arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing.

Communion Song

"Bread for the Journey"



1, 5 Give us bread for the jour - ney, give us bread.
2 Guide our way as we trav - el, guide our way.
3 Make us one with each oth - er, make us one.
4 Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home.



Give us bread for the jour - ney, give us bread.
Guide our way as we trav - el, guide our way.
Make us one with each oth - er, make us one.
Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home;



When our legs are get - ting heav - y, and we're hang - ing down our heads,
With so ma - ny roads be - fore us, where to go is hard to say.
All the walls we've built a - round us: may we learn to tear them down.
where we'll live with all cre - a - tion, find our place and nev - er roam.



give us bread for the jour - ney, give us bread.
Guide our way as we trav - el, guide our way.
Make us one with each oth - er, make us one.
Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home.

Text: Bret Hesla
Music: BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY, Bret Hesla

Text and tune © 1990 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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+ Sending +

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

Blessing

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

Announcements

+ Sending Song

“You Never Let Go”

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
Your perfect love is casting out fear, and even when I'm caught
in the middle of the storms of this life, I won't turn back, I know
You are near.

And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me, and if my God is with
me, whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

Refrain: Oh no, You never let go, through the calm and
through the storm. Oh no, You never let go in ev'ry
high and ev'ry low. Oh no, You never let go, Lord, You
never let go of me.

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on,
a glorious light beyond all compare, and there will be an end to
these troubles, but until that day comes, we'll live to know You
here on the earth.

Lord, You never let go of me. You keep on runnin' and You never
let go. Sing-in'

Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on,
and there will be an end to these troubles, but until that day
comes, still I will praise You, still I will praise You.

Lord You never let go of me

Beth Redman & Matt Redman

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+ Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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