



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor
Susanna Faust, Minister of Music
Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

Prelude: Prelude in G Minor, Op.16, No. 1

**by Clara Wieck Schumann
(1819-1896)**

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **C. Amen.**

P. Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

C. you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

**Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

P. God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✠ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **C. Amen.**



GATHERING HYMN: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW 807

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

KYRIE

Unity Mass, Norah Duncan



Cantor: Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son.
Chri - ste___ e - le - i - son. Chri - ste___ e - le - i - son. Chri - ste___ e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son.

All: Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son.
Chri - ste___ e - le - i - son. Chri - ste___ e - le - i - son. Chri - ste___ e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e___ e - le - i - son.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

WORD

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.



¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32



Be glad, you righ-teous, and re-joice in the LORD.



- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!
- ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile! R**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.
- ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the
guilt | of my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them. R**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. **R**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

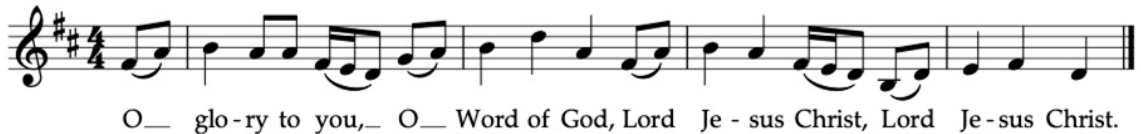
Children's Message (10:30 a.m.)

Annette Dittman

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Unity Mass, Norah Duncan



Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P. The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 15th chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went

and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

Sermon: Location, Location, Location

Pastor Nancy Raabe

Please stand.

HYMN of the DAY: That Priceless Grace

ELW 591

Apostles' Creed

P. Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

**C. 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

To the petition "God in your mercy," please respond, "Receive our prayer."

GREETING OF THE PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always. **C. And also with you.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

The offering is collected at this time by the ushers, who will pass the offering plates. You may also use this QR code to give using your credit card, or text a gift to Grace at 844-613-0815. We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Forms for electronic giving are in the narthex or ask us for help.



**Music at the Offering:
Give Me a Clean Heart**

Margaret Douroux (b. 1941)

Please stand.

OFFERTORY



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **C. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....and join their unending hymn:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Unity Mass, Norah Duncan



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of hosts.

Heav-en and earth are



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:...

In the night in which he was betrayed...

P. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C. Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C. Our Father, who art in heaven....

Invitation to Communion

P. All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Unity Mass, Norah Duncan

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins_ of the world, have mer - cy on us, have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins_ of the world, have

mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sins_ of the world, grant. us___ peace, grant. us___ peace.

Communion Hymn: Amazing Grace

ELW 779

Please stand.

TABLE BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your love might nourish the world,

in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

BENEDICTION

God our tender creator, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless
you now and forever. **C. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW 763

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C. Thanks be to God.



Postlude: Etude in G Minor

by Fanny Mendelssohn
(1805-1847)

Copyrights and Permissions

Used under OneLicense A-739245 (includes podcasting) and CCLI #21382258
and 21382265:

Give Me a Clean Heart, Margaret Douroux (b. 1941); ©2005 Augsburg Fortress
Liturgical texts and music reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress
Annual Liturgies License #SA-S025662.

Psalm 32, refrain by Thomas Keesecker, c. 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



Serving today - Thank you!!

Preacher and Presider: Pastor Nancy Raabe
Minister of Music: Susanna Faust
Lector: 8:00, P. Schmidt; 10:30, B. Krout
Ushers: 8:00, The Walters;
10:30, J. Krout & K. Heacock
Communion Asst: 8:00, B. Schmidt; 10:30, J. Kaler
Altar Guild: 8:00, W. Walter; 10:30, E. Woltmann
Altar Flower Prep: J. Kaler
Acolyte: 8:00, Usher; 10:30, Usher
Coffee Hour: Dave Kunkel
Council Offering & Lockup: 8:00, D. Kunkel;
10:30, T. Salter
Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



Lenten Community Worship

Please plan on joining us for the remainder of the Lenten Community Worship series. Several who have attended from other churches commented on how wonderful (and rare) it is to be doing this, overcoming our denominational divisions to worship together in Christ. Please make this a central part of your experience of Lent! On the theme "Embracing Lament in our Lenten Journey," the remaining services at 7:30 p.m. are:

- **April 2, here at Grace**
- **April 9, Church of the Brethren, 1333 Cowpath Rd.**

All will include a reception following the service so we can greet and get to know our neighbors. *Thanks to all Grace members who have signed up to bring food on April 2!*

NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 43:16-21

The Lord gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people

Psalms 126

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy

Philippians 3:4b-14

To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings

John 12:1-8

Mary anoints Jesus for his burial

Grace Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday April 12 2:00 PM, Rain or Shine

Candy and plastic egg donations needed for the Grace Easter Egg Hunt. Please place donations of wrapped candy and plastic eggs in the Narthex. Last day to donate is April 6, and plan to stay after the 10:30 service April 6 to help fill the plastic eggs.



Pastoral Care If you are ill, seeking pastoral care or need a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe through the office. Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses, hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and the joys in your life.



Save Paper! Early access! Receive your Parish News by email! Add your address to the list by contacting Lynn in the office.

COFFEE HOUR is served in the NARTHEX each Sunday. Please join us for coffee, tasty snacks, and conversation. Also, the nursery is available for parents and children; please make use of the “Busy Bags” for young children.



Grace Lutheran Church
Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440
215-855-4676

Pastor Raabe: pastorgracehatfield@gmail.com
Office: graceassistant40@gmail.com

Stepping Stones: steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net
215-368-2052

