

Sunday Service

Life Together - Invisible Love

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Grace Lutheran Church

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Welcome...

We are so happy that you are sharing our worship with us today.

www.GraceLutheranPSL.com

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday and Wednesday Individual Communion 10AM-1PM

During this time we know social distancing is important; however, you are invited to come sometime on **Sunday or Wednesday from 10am-1pm for individual communion and a quick service and hello.** We will take precautions to keep the building and communion as sanitary as possible. Remember to keep 6 ft between others at all times.

If you arrive and see another person/family in the sanctuary, please wait in the fellowship hall. If you see someone waiting in the fellowship hall, distance yourself in the fellowship hall, or wait on the front porch or in your car. This is subject to change, but we are trying to figure out how to be the church right now.

Life Together - Christian Community for Tough Times

Peter is writing to Christians facing tough times. He is writing to encourage them in the faith, not to just act any ol' way in this life when things get difficult but to act like Jesus, who, when faced with suffering, still shows love and restores our life together.

TODAY: Invisible Love

Jesus, while on the cross, looked up into the sky and yelled, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?" This seems appropriate for today, as we see so much change in the last two weeks. Things are closed, the economy is bad, and I am watching worship on a screen. Is God somewhere else as well? But Peter encourages us to remember the God that is always here, the invisible love.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

God Bless Our Native Land (LW 497)

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| 1. God bless our native land;
Firm may it ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our country save
By thy great might. | 2. So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies,
On whom we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry:
God save the state |
|--|--|

--RESPONSE OF THE DAY

Taken From Psalm 107

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

PEOPLE: HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!

Pastor: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

PEOPLE: HE HAS REDEEMED US FROM TROUBLE

Pastor: Some wandered in the deserts, hungry and thirsty,

PEOPLE: BUT THE LORD DELIVERED THEM FROM THEIR DISTRESS.

Pastor: Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners forced into hard labor,

PEOPLE: BUT THE LORD ALWAYS DELIVERS THEM FROM THEIR DISTRESS.

----THE HYMN OF PRAISE

"Beautiful Savior" (LW 507 Vs. 1-2)

*Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands; robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer; He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.*

--- THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God's forgiveness)

Pastor:  *O Almighty God,*

**PEOPLE: MERCIFUL FATHER,
I CONFESS THAT I HAVE SINNED
AGAINST YOU.
I HAVE DONE THAT WHICH YOU
FORBID, I HAVE DONE WHAT IS
RIGHT IN MY OWN EYES.
IN THE WEARINESS OF A BUSY LIFE,
I HAVE YIELDED TO TEMPTATION.
I HAVE TRUSTED MYSELF MORE
THAN I HAVE TRUSTED YOU.**

**I HAVE FOLLOWED MY OWN
PATHS RATHER THAN YOURS.
FORGIVE ME, I PRAY.
BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,
LEAD ME AND GUIDE ME
SO THAT I MAY TRULY BE
YOUR SERVANT IN YOUR GREAT
REDEMPTIVE WORK ON EARTH;
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON,
OUR LORD. AMEN**

Pastor:  The story of Jesus is about life and forgiveness.

*You are God's beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the hope of new life. God loves you, and God is the restorer of hope. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN***

--THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you love us and make all things new in Christ. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your kindness, and make known your heavenly glory in the renewal of our lives. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 53:7-12

It is hard to understand why God would crush His innocent servant. But it is in His suffering for sin that God deals decisively with sin and its harmful effects.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

THE SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 1:6-12

Early Christians stand apart from the culture and suffer social stigmas and physical persecution at times. Peter challenges them to remain faithful to Jesus who also suffered for not conforming.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Reader:  *This is the Word of the Lord.*

PEOPLE:  **THANKS BE TO GOD**

while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the

salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but

you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

“RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD” - sing (LW pg. 165)

Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful, slow to an-ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 23:1-12

Crucifixion is a favorite Roman punishment for insurrectionists, slaves, and prisoners of war. Anyone daring to defy the power and authority of Caesar is executed in this public and humiliating way. Jesus indeed is a revolutionary. He doesn't come to proclaim a new religion, but a new kingdom

Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from

Galilee even to this place.”

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- THE APOSTLES CREED

--- HYMN OF THE DAY

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

(LW 295 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**
- 2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and
our cares.**
- 3. We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**
- 4. From sorrow, toil, and pain and sin we shall be free,
And perfect love and friendship reign through all
eternity.**

--- THE SERMON

Invisible Love

--THE OFFERTORY (LW Pg. 168)

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest
from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us
A foretaste of the feast to come.*

--- PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(after each petition)

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ,
His 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 into hell.

The third day
He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the
right hand of God,
the Father, Almighty.
From thence
He will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

--- THE LORD'S PRAYER

----- THE BLESSING

Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord look upon you with grace and redemption.

May the Lord always walk before you and give you peace.

PEOPLE:  **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heav'n
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heav'n
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those
Who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom
And the power and the glory
Forever and ever.
Amen

----THE CLOSING HYMN

"On What Has Now Been Sown" (LW 217 Vs. 1 & 3)

1. On what has now been sown Your
blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Yours alone to make it
sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise, and
Yours alone shall be the praise!
3. Oh, grant that each of us, now met
before you here,
May meet together thus when You and
Yours appear,
And follow You to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen! Lord Jesus, come!

----- SENDING

Pastor: Have peace knowing we are all with you.

Serve others knowing God walks before you.

--- ADDITIONAL HYMNS

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" LW 378 (Vs. 1 - 4)

1. My faith looks up to Thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine. now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly Thine!
2. May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire! As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee, pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

3. While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.
4. When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll, blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" (LW 509 Vs. 1-4)

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!
2. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe so far,
His grace will see me home.
4. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" (LW 361 Vs 1-4)

1. Rock Of ages, cleft for me, let me hide
myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy
riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me
from its guilt and pow'r.
2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfil
Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could
my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must
save, and Thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to
Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come Thee for dress; helpless,
look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me
Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when
mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see
Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide
myself in Thee.

---- **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

Sunday **March 22, 2020**

Individual/Family Communion 10 AM - 1 PM

AA 7:30 PM

This Week

March 23 - 28, 2020

Individual/Family Communion

Wednesday 10 AM - 1 PM

Pellin's Home Bible Study

Wednesday 10:30 AM

For complete calendar information, go to www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar.

BIBLE STUDIES Pastor is working on solutions for Bible studies in the future. Most likely we will do the studies through a web chat platform called Zoom. So break out your smart phone or computer, and join us in the future. The nice thing about Zoom is that if you don't have a computer, you can just call in with a normal phone.

PLEASE CALL PEOPLE I realize I take for granted that people just come to the church on a regular basis. So that we all don't descend into madness, let's call and talk to each other regularly. Phone directories are available at the church for your convenience.

GIVING Changing over to a social distance model of ministry has been quite challenging. We have had to purchase new equipment and spend lots of time getting ready. Remember, during this time, the church's expenses will not go down even though we are not meeting in person. During the next month, we want to provide "Grace and Peace in this Chaotic and Lonely Time."

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS Greg Schultz - 3/25, David Vik & Tim Glish - 3/27

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES (depending on Coronavirus status, otherwise "live streamed")

Maundy Thursday, 4/9 - 6 PM, Good Friday, 4/10 - Noon & 7:00 PM, Easter Sunday, 4/12 - 6:45 AM (Outdoor Chapel) & 10:15 AM (Inside the Sanctuary)

Questions to ponder this week.

1. Describe a time where you didn't feel and see Jesus working and wondered where he was.
2. Read Mark 15:21-39. Have recent world events caused you to read this differently? If so, how so?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. According to Peter, where is Jesus when you don't see him?
4. Describe a time in the past when you faced challenges that you realized Jesus was near. How can you encourage someone with that this week?