

# GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

415 10<sup>th</sup> Street ~ DeWitt, Iowa 52742 - Church: 563-659-9153 ~ [www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org)

+ The Order of Service +

## The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026 – 8:00 am & 10:30 am

**WELCOME GUESTS!** We are delighted to have you join us for worship this morning. Please come and worship with us again!

We are following the Divine Service, Setting 4, beginning on page 203 in the Lutheran Service Book.

The Preservice Music

A Time for Meditation

Small Group (Late Service)

“Poor, Wayfaring Stranger”

The Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

The Ringing of the Bell

Words of Welcome by Pastor Kent Umbarger

### Opening Hymn

### #841 “O Son of God, in Galilee”

- 1 O Son of God, in Galilee  
You made the deaf to hear,  
The mute to speak, the blind to see;  
O blessed Lord, be near.
- 2 O listen to the silent prayer  
Of Your afflicted ones.  
O bid them cast on You their care;  
Your grace to them make known.
- 3 The speechless tongue, the lifeless ear  
You can restore, O Lord;  
Your “Ephphatha,” O Savior dear,  
Can instant help afford.
- 4 Meanwhile to them the list’ning ear  
Of steadfast faith impart,  
And let Your Word bring light and cheer  
To ev’ry troubled heart.

5 Then in Your promised happy land  
Each loss will prove a gain;  
All myst'ries we shall understand,  
For You will make them plain.

Text: Anna B. D. Hoppe, 1889–1941, alt.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** Who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

Service of the Word



and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**☒ Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 42:14-21*

For a long time I have held my peace;

I have kept still and restrained myself;  
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;

I will gasp and pant.

I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;

I will turn the rivers into islands,  
and dry up the pools.

And I will lead the blind

in a way that they do not know,  
in paths that they have not known

I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,  
and I do not forsake them.

They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,

who say to metal images,

“You are our gods.”

Hear, you deaf,

and look, you blind, that you may see!

Who is blind but my servant,

or deaf as my messenger whom I send?

Who is blind as my dedicated one,

or blind as the servant of the LORD?

He sees many things, but does not observe them;

his ears are open, but he does not hear.

The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,

to magnify his law and make it glorious.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Small Group (8am)

“Poor, Wayfaring Stranger”

Gradual

**A** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**C** The founder and perfecter of our faith,

**A** Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,  
despising the shame,

**C** And is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing

to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Holy Gospel**

*John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and

washed and came back seeing.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

## **Hymn                    #571 “God Loved the World So That He Gave ”**

- 1 God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

- 3 God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

## Sermon

## “Karma or Grace”

*John 9:1-41*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

## Offering

*Stand*

## Service of the Sacrament

**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 Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

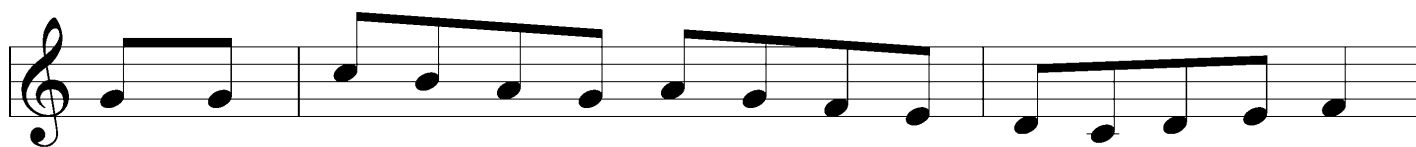
**Sanctus**



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that

whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### Lord's Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; 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 Words of Institution of Our Lord – *spoken by the Pastor*

### Pax Domini

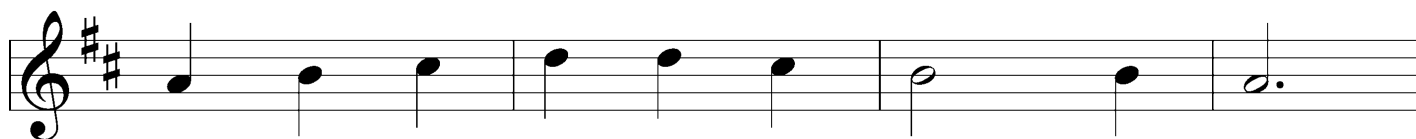
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

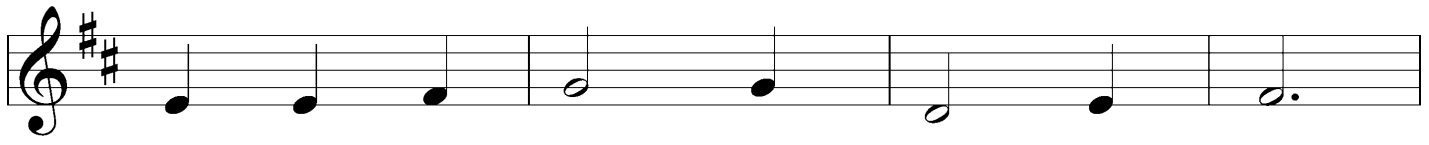
### Agnus Dei



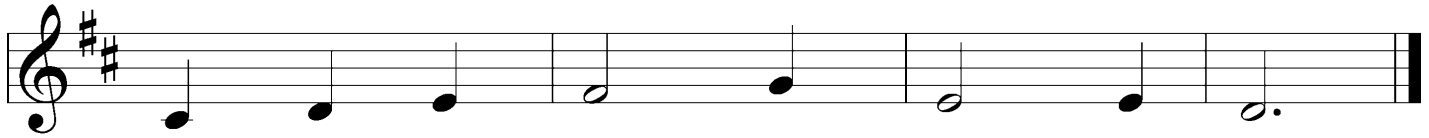
**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

## Distribution & Distribution Hymns

### #440 "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now  
On Your holy passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow  
For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
May the image cherish  
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death  
That I may not perish.
- 2 Make me see Your great distress,  
Anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness  
And Your crucifixion;  
Make me see how scourge and rod,  
Spear and nails did wound You,  
How for them You died, O God,  
Who with thorns had crowned You.
- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone  
Make me see Your passion,  
But its cause to me make known  
And its termination.

Ah! I also and my sin  
Wrought Your deep affliction;  
This indeed the cause has been  
Of Your crucifixion.

4 Grant that I Your passion view  
With repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to You  
By unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun  
Ev'ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God's only Son  
Suffered without measure?

5 If my sins give me alarm  
And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm;  
Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won  
By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son,  
God must have compassion!

6 Graciously my faith renew;  
Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from You,  
Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give You love for love!  
Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above  
Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

## #617 “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.

Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish:

O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,  
That our sins and sorrows did carry,

And Thy blood for us plead

In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given,  
Life to win for us in heaven.

No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;

May this feast thereof remind us!

O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee

That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.

All our debt Thou hast paid;

Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor  
That we follow Christ our Savior

And live together here in love and union

Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;

Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;

Give Thy Church, Lord, to see

Days of peace and unity:

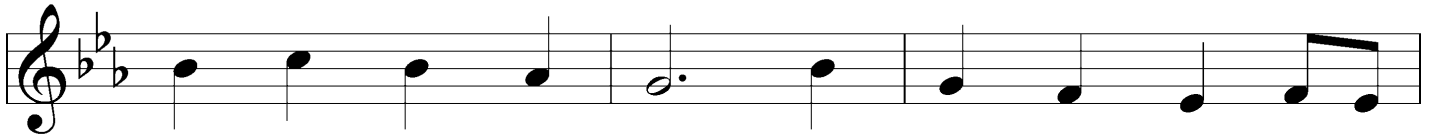
O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546

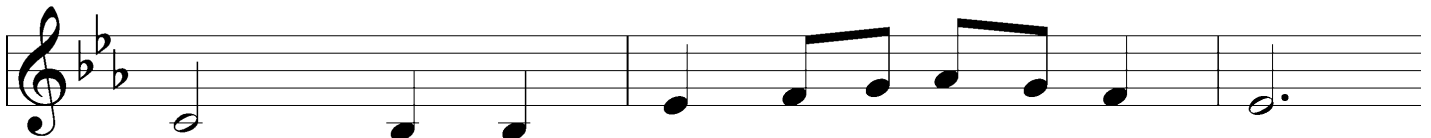
## Nunc Dimittis



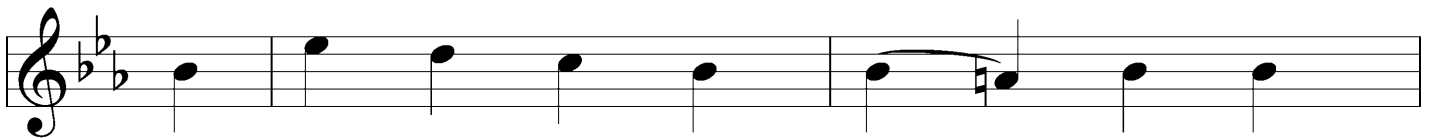
**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



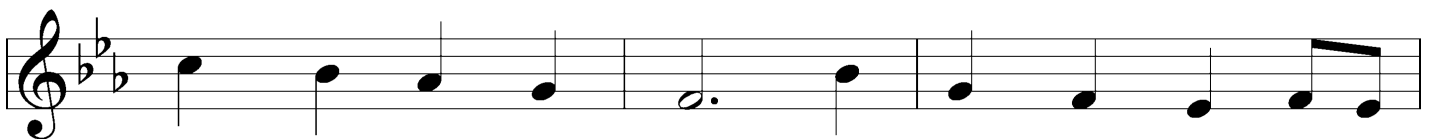
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



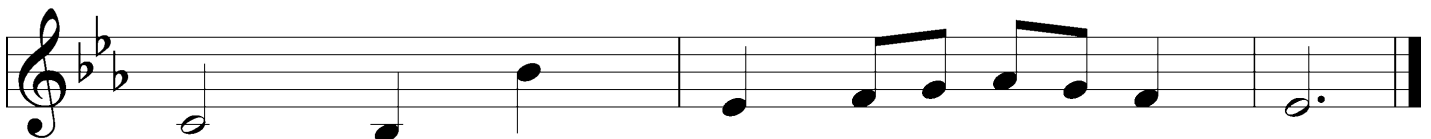
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your

mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C Amen.**

### **The Closing Hymn**

### **#744 “Amazing Grace”**

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 thus far,

His grace will lead 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.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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