

Only by Faith Do You See Your Savior

March 12, 2023



Third Sunday of Lent

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS – The light of the world brings sight to the blind and judgment to the blinded. Faith means seeing Jesus as Savior: like the bronze serpent, we look on him and live (Verse of the Day). We were born in the blindness of sin, and without the light of Christ we could not find a way to safety. Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. Yet for those who refuse to see their Savior in Christ, the blindness of unbelief remains. He gives gracious sight to the blind who trust in him; he gives blinding judgment on those who reject him; finally, he displays the work of God in the lives of those who now walk in the light of Christ.

MORNING PRAYER - Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION– CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN:

#221

BLESSED JESUS, AT YOUR WORD

****Please Stand for last verse****



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



Now to seek and love and fear you, By your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
peo - ple rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84, st. 1-3; *Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; unknown, st. 4, alt.

Tune: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

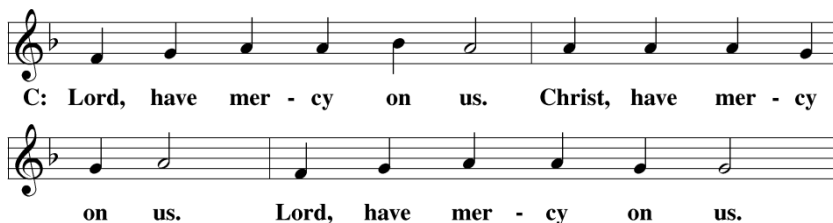
CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis





sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 42: 14 – 21

The Lord makes promises to two groups: to his helplessly blind children who cannot find a way out, to them he promises certain deliverance and rescue. But to those who reject the true God and look to idols, God promises judgment; they remain spiritually blind.

I have been silent for a long time. I have kept still. I have restrained myself. But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream. I will gasp and pant. I will dry up mountains and hills. I will make all their grass wither. I will turn rivers into islands. I will dry up pools. I will lead the blind on a way they do not know. Along paths they do not know I will direct them. Ahead of them I will turn darkness into light and rough places into level ground. These are the things I will accomplish for them. I will not abandon them. They will be turned back and completely disgraced—those who trust in an idol, those who say to molten images, “You are our gods.”

You deaf ones, listen! You blind ones, watch carefully so that you can see! Who is as blind as my servant? Who is as deaf as my messenger whom I sent? Who is as blind as my associate, as blind as the servant of the Lord? You, Israel, see many things, but you do not observe. Israel opens his

ears, but he does not hear. Because of his own righteousness, the Lord was pleased to make his law great and glorious.

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 143



Refrain

O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;*
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment*,
for no one living is righteous before you.

My spirit grows faint within me;*
my heart within me is dismayed.

Refrain

Answer me quickly, O LORD;*
do not hide your face from me.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,*
for I have put my trust in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;*
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning*,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 5: 8 – 14

Notice what Paul says. He does not say that once we were in the dark and now, we are in the light. No, once we were darkness and now, we are light. Our conversion meant a total transformation of what we are, and therefore, it will lead to a total transformation of what we do.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord, and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. Therefore it is said, "Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

VERSE OF THE DAY

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14,15)

*****Please Stand*****

GOSPEL

JOHN 9: 1 – 7, 13 – 17, 34 – 39

In God's plan there are no coincidences, and there is no karma. The man was born blind not because of his parents' sin; nor was the man lying in Jesus' path by accident. Both happened that the work of God might be displayed in the life of this man who was doubly blind: he could not see Jesus physically or spiritually. Christ opened the door to the latter by solving the former.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² 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 God's works might be revealed in connection with him. I must do 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." After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man's eyes. "Go," Jesus told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man told them. "I washed, and now I see."

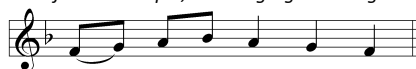
Then some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others were saying, "How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?"

There was division among them, so they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?" The man replied, "He is a prophet."

They answered him, "You were entirely born in sinfulness! Yet you presume to teach us?" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" "Who is he, sir," the man replied, "that I may believe in him?" Jesus answered, "You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" and he knelt down and worshipped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

*****Please Be Seated*****

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#343

CHRIST IS THE WORLD'S LIGHT



1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;
 2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;
 3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;
 4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



Born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.
 No one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.
 Sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.
 Give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the
 Who else u - nites us, one with God the
 He who re - deemed us reigns with God the
 Give God the glo - ry, God with us, my



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
 Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!
 Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
 broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, alt. © 1969 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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Tune: CHRISTE SANCTORUM (10 11 11 6) *Antiphoner*, Paris, 1681.

SERMON TEXT

JOHN 9: 1 – 7, 13 – 17, 34 – 39

SERMON:

WASHED IN THE ONE SENT

CREATE IN ME



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



*****Please Be Seated*****

OFFERING — Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

THE PRAYER FOR LENT

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

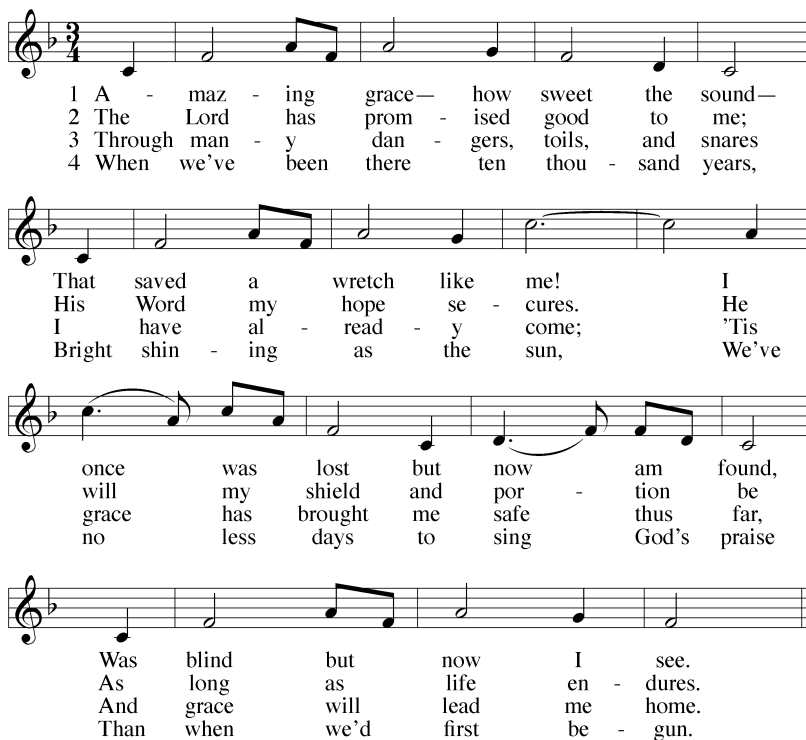
Amen.

****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#379

AMAZING GRACE — HOW SWEET THE SOUND



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
 4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,

That saved a wretch like me! I
 His Word my hope se - cures. He
 I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
 Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've

once was lost but now am found,
 will my shield and por - tion be
 grace has brought me safe thus far,
 no less days to sing God's praise

Was blind but now I see.
 As long as life en - dures.
 And grace will lead me home.
 Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4.
 Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

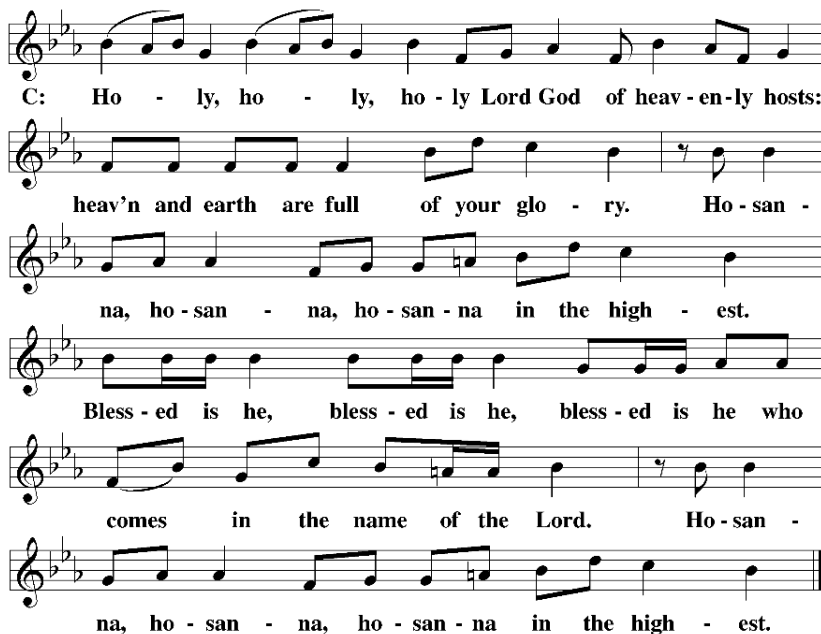


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

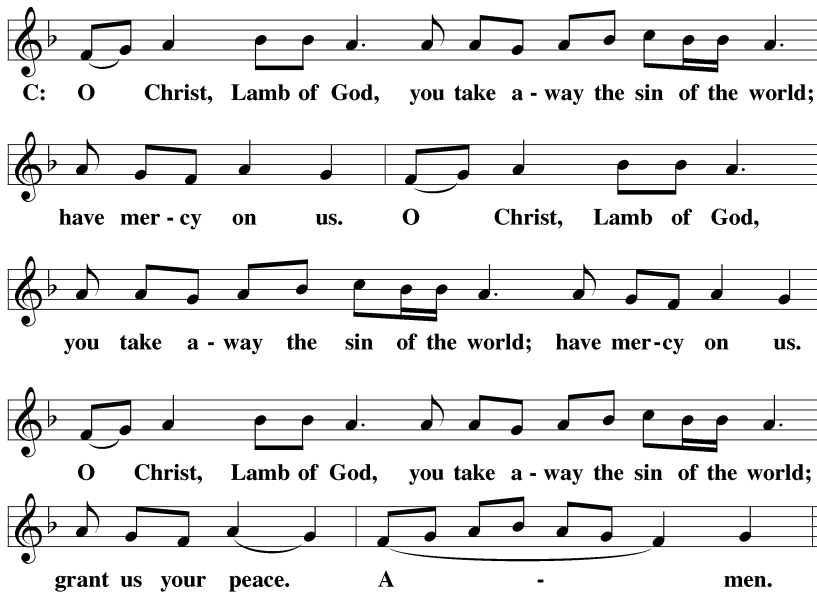
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

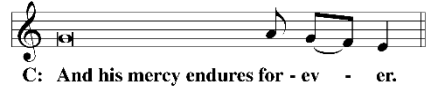
DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

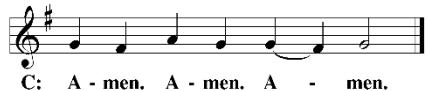
O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#577

RISE, O LIGHT OF GENTILE NATIONS



1 Rise, O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, Je - sus, bright and
2 Know - ing you and your sal - va - tion, Grate - ful love dare
3 May our zeal to help the hea - then Be in - creased from
4 Sav - ior, shine in all your glo - ry On the na - tions



Morn - ing Star; Let your Word, the glad - some ti - dings,
nev - er cease To pro - claim your ten - der mer - cies,
day to day, As we plead in true com - pas - sion
near and far; From the high - ways and the by - ways



Ring out loud - ly near and far, Bring - ing
Gra - cious Lord, your heav'n - ly peace. Let us
And for their con - ver - sion pray. For the
Call them forth, O Morn - ing Star. Guide them



free - dom to the cap - tives, Peace and com - fort
sound the gos - pel ti - dings To the earth's re -
man - y faith - ful work - ers, For the gos - pel
whom your grace has cho - sen Out of Sa - tan's



to the slave, That the hea - then, free from
mot - est bound That the sin - ner has been
they pro - claim, Let us all be cheer - ful
dread - ful thrall To the man - sions of your



bond - age, May pro - claim your pow'r to save.
par - doned And for - give - ness can be found.
giv - ers To the glo - ry of your name.
Fa - ther— There is room for sin - ners all.

Text: Herman Fick, 1822–85, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.

Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE (87 87 D) *Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz*, Basel, 1745, alt.

What We believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marriage Enrichment Seminar – Hearing your feedback, we have changed the name and are making this seminar available for our members to give you a taste and see. Here is an opportunity to be with your Grace family and consider ways to add to your marriage. Save the date, 5:00 pm May 19, here at church. Yes, you may invite single friends, but please come! This seminar will be a biblical approach to relationships.

Easter – We need some flowers for our sanctuary for Easter. If you have not signed up yet, there still is time. The sign-up for lilies will be in the coffee and tea area. And after Easter service, you get to take yours home to enjoy. All Easter lilies will need to be at church on April 8.

Lenten Services –We have a Midweek opportunity for you to be in God’s word on ***TUESDAYS*** at 7:00 pm. Our final Midweek services will be on March 14, 21, and 28. Maundy Thursday: April 6 @ 7:00 pm; Good Friday: April 7 @ 7:00 pm. Palm Sunday and Easter will be at the standard service times.

Sunday Morning Bible Study –What are your questions about the book of Acts? Do you know who wrote Acts? I challenge you to bring me your questions. Come and go as you wish! We start around 9:00 am; reading is always voluntary; bring your questions.

Midweek Bible Study – We have again paused our Midweek Bible Study. However, you are encouraged to use the daily devotions until April 11, when we will resume our study of Romans.

Council Meeting – Grace is your church! The church council is not an island to itself; instead, they make decisions regarding the administration of our church. If you have input about service times or activities you might like to see Grace pursue in the future, please feel free to contact the council members to get your opinion heard.

Budget and Voters Meeting – Time is running short, and we are approaching our fiscal year’s end. Our treasurer is looking for a few good people (2 or 3) to assist with next year’s budget; this should happen over no more than 2 – 1-hour meetings. You can take part by zoom if necessary, but we need congregation involvement. If you know how to spend money like crazy, you bring an exciting aspect to the meetings, and we need you! If you are thrifty (your spouse calls you cheap behind closed doors), we need you also. And if you are indifferent, we need you, too. So please consider joining our team.

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