

You are Called to Selfless Service

March 19, 2023



Fourth 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 – Jesus calls us from sinful selfishness to selfless service. We can view the world from the perspective of selfishness or selflessness. Selfishness puts self before all and leads to favoritism, pride and envy. Repentance, however, means despairing of self, trusting in Christ's substitutionary sacrifice and leading lives of selfless service modeled after our Savior who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for us.

MORNING PRAYER - Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ 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

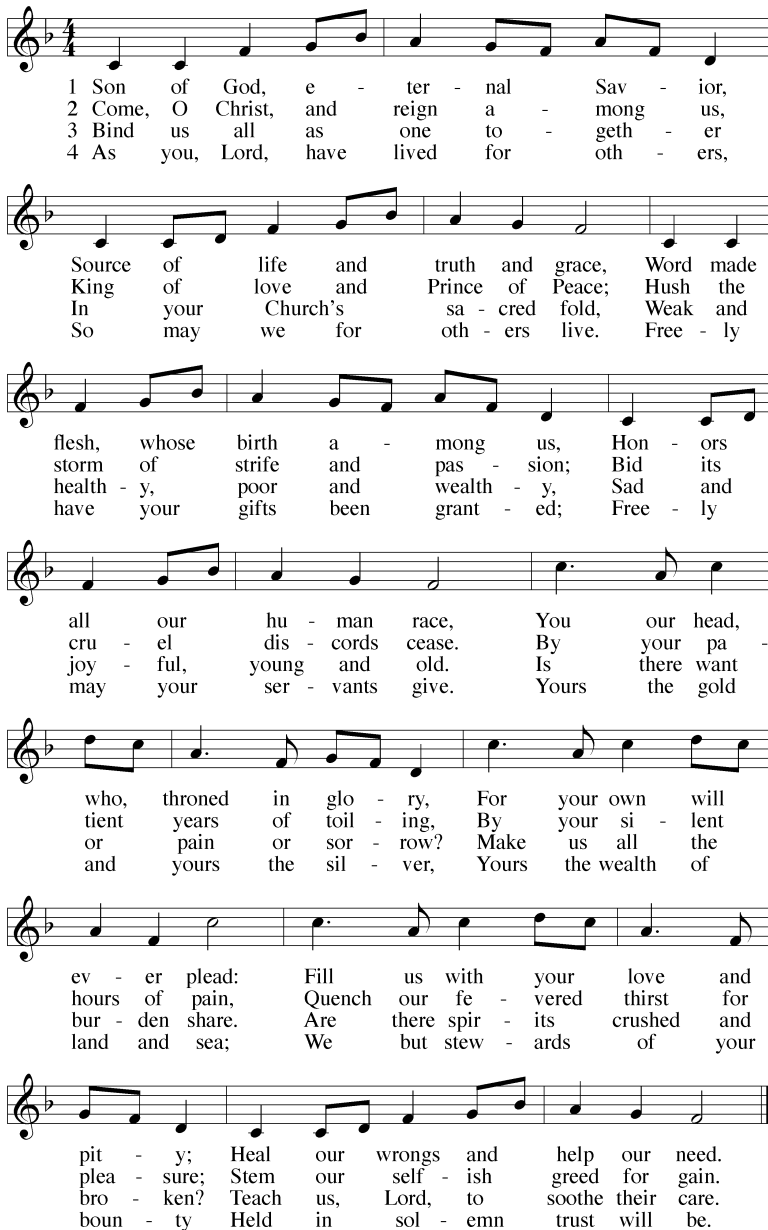


OPENING HYMN:

#492

SON OF GOD, ETERNAL SAVIOR

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



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior,
 2 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us,
 3 Bind us all as one to - geth - er,
 4 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers,

Source of life and truth and grace, Word made
 King of love and Prince of Peace; Hush the
 In your Church's sa - cred fold, Weak and
 So may we for oth - ers live. Free - ly

flesh, whose birth a - mong us, Hon - ors
 storm of strife and pas - sion; Bid its
 health - y, poor and wealth - y, Sad and
 have your gifts been grant - ed; Free - ly

all our hu - man race, You our head,
 cru - el dis - cords cease. By your pa -
 joy - ful, young and old. Is there want
 may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold

who, throned in glo - ry, For your own will
 tient years of toil - ing, By your si - lent
 or pain or sor - row? Make us all the
 and yours the sil - ver, Yours the wealth of

ev - er plead: Fill us with your love and
 hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered thirst for
 bur - den share, Are there spir - its crushed and
 land and sea; We but stew - ards of your

pit - y; Heal our wrongs and help our need.
 plea - sure; Stem our self - ish greed for gain.
 bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
 boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, abr., alt.
 Tune: LORD, REVIVE US (87 87 D) *The Revivalist*, Troy, NY, 1868.



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

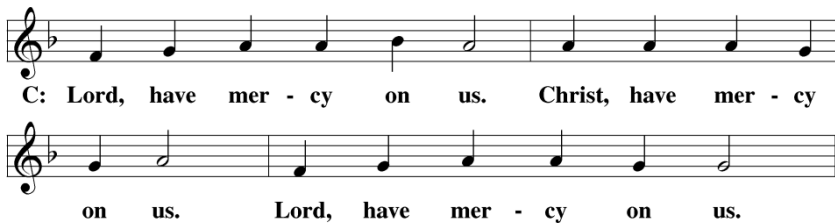
CONFESSION OF SINS

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.

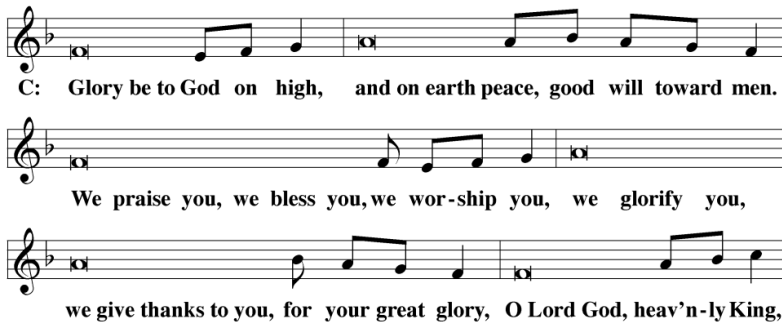


PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

GLORY BE TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
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, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ 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:

Hosea 5: 15 – 6:3

True repentance and selfless service are about more than saying the right words. On their face, this confession of Israel is beautiful, but at its heart it is empty. The words sound nice, but there is no confession of guilt, God doesn't receive it, and fruits don't follow.

I will go. I will return to my place until they admit their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will earnestly seek me.

Come, let us return to the Lord. For he has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us. He has struck us, but he will bandage our wounds. After two days he will revive us. On the third day he will raise us up, so that we may live in his presence. Let us acknowledge the Lord. Let us pursue knowledge of the Lord. As surely as the sun rises, the Lord will appear. He will come to us like a heavy rain, like the spring rain that waters the earth.

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 42 – 43

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



Refrain

As the deer pants for streams of water,*
 so my soul pants for you, O God.
 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*
 Where can I go and meet with God?
 Why are you downcast, O my soul?*
 Why so disturbed within me?
 Put your hope in God,*
 for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Refrain

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;*
 let them bring me to the place where you dwell.
 Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight.*
 I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

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

ROMANS 8: 1 – 10

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Christ's life ransomed mankind because it met God's demands and set us free from the Law of sin. Now we are free to live according to the Spirit.

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

VERSE OF THE DAY

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

****Please Stand****

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 20: 17 – 28

Jesus revealed the plan of the Father to his disciples: the Son of God would leave his heavenly throne and selflessly give his freedom to his enemies, his body to the torturer, his life to the executioner in order that he might be our Savior. Rather than marveling at the depth of his love and self-sacrifice, the disciples argued about places of greatness in glory.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



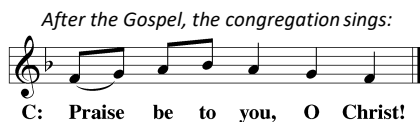
C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside; and on the way he said to them, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law, and they will condemn him to death. They will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, flog, and crucify him. On the third day he will be raised."

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking something of him. He said to her, "What do you want?"

She said to him, "Promise that in your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right hand and one on your left hand." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not for me to give; rather these places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard this, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It will not be that way among you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



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:

#487

O LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH AND SEA



1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To
2 The gold - en sun - shine, spring - time air, Sweet
3 For peace - ful homes and health - ful days, For
4 You did not spare your on - ly Son, But
5 We have your Spir - it ev - 'ry hour, The



you all praise and glo - ry be! How can we
flow'rs and fruit your love de - clare; When har - vests
all the bless - ings earth dis - plays We owe you
gave him for a world un - done, And free - ly
Lord of life and love and pow'r, He will his



thank you prop - er - ly Who gives us all?
rip - en, you are there, Who gives us all.
thank - ful - ness and praise, Who gives us all.
with that bless - ed one You give us all.
sev'n - fold gra - ces show'r Up - on us all.

6 For means of grace, for sins forgiv'n, 7 We lose what on ourselves we spend;
For souls redeemed and hopes of heav'n, We have as treasures without end
What can to you, O Lord, be giv'n, Whatever, Lord, to you we lend,
Who gives us all? Who gives us all.

8 Dear Lord, from you we all derive
Our life, our gifts, our pow'r to give,
Oh, may we ever with you live,
Who gives us all!

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.
Tune: ES IST KEIN TAG (888 4) Johann D. Mayer, 1636–96, alt.

SERMON TEXT

SERMON:

MATTHEW 20: 17 – 28
ARE YOU ABLE TO DRINK?

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 -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

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

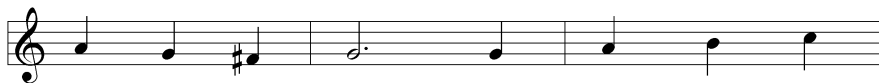
DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#401

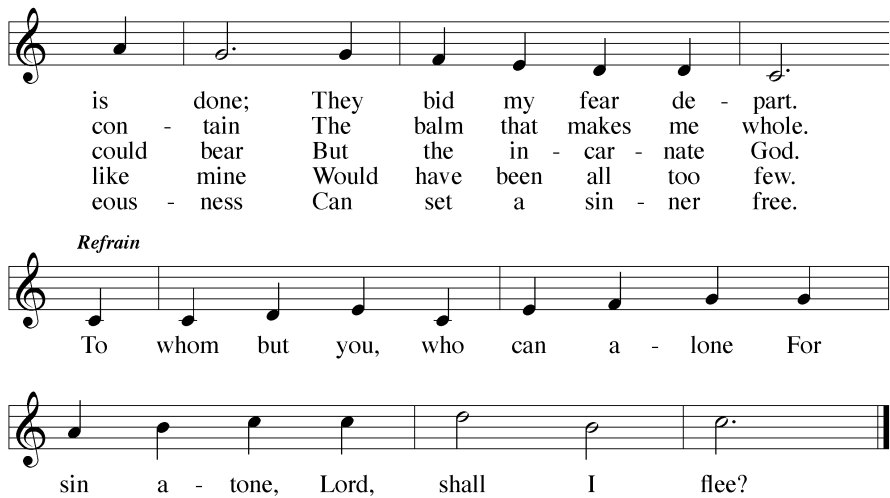
YOUR WORKS, NOT MINE, O CHRIST



1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad -
2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, Can heal
3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne
4 Your death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid
5 Your right - eous - ness, O Christ, A - lone



ness to this heart. They tell me all
my sin - ful soul; Your wounds, not mine,
the dread - ful load Of sins that none
the ran - som due; Ten thou - sand deaths
can cov - er me; No oth - er right -



is done; They bid my fear de - part.
 con - tain The balm that makes me whole.
 could bear But the in - car - nate God.
 like mine Would have been all too few.
 eous - ness Can set a sin - ner free.

Refrain

To whom but you, who can a - lone For
 sin a - tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.
 Tune: ST. JOHN (66 66 88) *The Parish Choir*, London, 1850.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

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

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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."

C: A - men.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

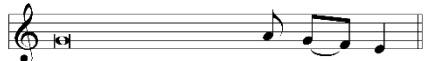
DISTRIBUTION

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.



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

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

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:

#386

NOW I HAVE FOUND THE FIRM FOUNDATION




1 Now I have found the firm foun - da - tion Which
2 It is that mer - cy nev - er end - ing, Which
3 Our ru - in God has not in - tend - ed; For
4 O depth of love, to me re - veal - ing The
5 Let mer - cy cause me to be will - ing To




holds my life for - ev - er sure; 'Twas laid be -
hu - man wis - dom far tran - scends, Of him who,
our sal - va - tion he has yearned. For this his
sea where my sins dis - ap - pear! In Christ my
bear my lot and not to fret. While he my



fore the world's cre - a - tion In Christ my Sav - ior's
lov - ing arms ex - tend - ing, To wretch - ed sin - ners
Son to earth de - scend - ed And then a - gain to
wounds find per - fect heal - ing; There is no con - dem -
rest - less heart is still - ing, May I his mer - cy



wounds se - cure, Foun - da - tion which un - moved shall
con - de - scends. His heart with pit - y still will
heav'n re - turned; For this so pa - tient ev - er -
na - tion here! For Je - sus' blood through earth and
not for - get! What - ev - er comes my heart to



stay When heav'n and earth will pass a - way.
break Wheth - er we seek him or for - sake.
more He's knock - ing at our heart's closed door.
skies For - ev - er "Mer - cy! Mer - cy!" cries.
test, His mer - cy is my on - ly rest.

6 Lord, I will stand on this foundation
As long as I on earth remain;
This will engage my meditation
While I the breath of life retain.
And then, when face to face with you.
I'll sing your mercy great and true.

Text: Johann A. Rothe, 1688–1758, abr.; tr. composite.
Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (KÖNIG) (98 98 88) Johann B. König, 1691–1758.

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

Easter Lilies – Thank you everyone who signed up for Easter Lilies, last week we had 22 lilies committed for our Easter celebration. If you missed signing up to bring them you can still bring one, all lilies need to be at church on April 8 we will be setting up church from 4 – 5:00 pm. If that does not work you can still bring them Easter morning. Once again thank you our Grace family.

Lenten Services –We have a Midweek opportunity just for you to be in God’s word on **TUESDAYS** at 7:00 pm. Our final Midweek services will be March 21, and March 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. Can we get your feedback? What did you think of the Tuesday service and the time? Let the pastor know.

Sunday Morning Bible Study –What are your questions about the book of 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! Please inform Charlie Vandelicht if you would like a copy of our minutes from last months meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 14 at Gene’s home.

Strategic planning – It is hard to believe but it has been two years since we have done our last strategic planning with the congregation. And we need more feedback. There will be a survey sent to you in the next few weeks please look for this and send it back in so we can compile and prepare for our strategic planning. This meeting will be separate of the voters meeting which is scheduled for June 4.

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