

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parker, South Dakota

Rev. Don Reiffenberger, Pastor

Music Leaders: Shirley Oswald, Deone Christensen, Grace Reiffenberger, Michele Reiffenberger

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Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020

PRELUDE, VISUAL PRAYERS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

Leader: As we gather as one people on this Third Sunday in Lent, we are reminded that in the desert, Moses asked God for a drink of water for his people. So God sent water from a rock so the people could drink.

All: But why do we always want more?

Leader: This planet is shooting through space at nineteen miles per second, revolving one thousand miles an hour, spinning on one arm of a galaxy that is one of millions of billions.

All: God made it all, and then gave it to us. I think the words we are searching for are, "Thank you!"

Leader: God must get tired of hearing our complaints. Yet still, somehow, God loves us without measure. There is no condition on unconditional.

All: We are close and in harmony, connection, and unity with the Creator of all things. When God reaches out, we should not complain that his hand is empty. We should take it and be lifted up.

~ A candle is extinguished ~

Leader: Rather than complaining and demanding more, let us give thanks to God for all he has given us, and accept his unconditional love for us. Together, we pray:

All: Almighty God, as we continue this Season of Lent, we ask you to open our hearts. Let us come face to face with these things within us that are hindering our relationship with you. Let us reflect on where we are, so we can see clearly where you want us to be. As we walk through this journey with Jesus toward Easter, may our faith deepen as every day we find more courage to speak Jesus to a world in need. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Good and Gracious God, we confess that what we say we believe and the beliefs our lives profess frequently aren't the same.

All: We say that you are good, yet we're quick to blame you when discomfort, turmoil or distress arises.

Leader: We say that you love us, but we act as if your will for our lives cannot be trusted. We proclaim that we are forgiven, yet we continue to carry the burdensome baggage of our past.

All: We profess that you are a faithful God, yet we're riddled with anxiety, fear and impatience. Forgive us, Lord. Give us the courage to look honestly at the disparity between what we say we believe and the truth that our actions and attitudes tell. We pray for the grace to close the gap between the two. Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, the mercy of Jesus Christ covers all our sin and is from everlasting to everlasting. Know that we are forgiven, and be at peace.

All: Thanks Be to God!

OPENING HYMN

"10,000 Reasons [Bless the Lord]"

By Matt Redman

(Led by a music video as a time of peaceful prayer.)

Please join in singing the chorus...It is sung 5 times and begins the song.)

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before, O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin.

All: Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

THE READING RESPONSE

"Thanks Be to God!" (After each reading)

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 95

THE SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

KID TALK

"Thirsty People"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Please remain standing for The Gospel)

~For the time being, we will not shake hands during the Sharing of the Peace. Instead, let's share a fist or elbow bump, a wave or a bow, or even a toe tap.~

THE GOSPEL John 4:5-42 (Pew Bible p. 72 – New Testament)

GOSPEL RESPONSES “Glory to You, O Lord” (After The Gospel is announced)
“Praise to You, O Christ” (After The Gospel is read)

SERMON “Jesus and the Samaritan Woman”

HYMN OF THE DAY “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” ELW 807

APOSTLES’ CREED pg 127

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
(Congregational response after each petition of “Lord, in your mercy:” “Hear our prayer.”)

RETURNING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
“The world asks, ‘What does a person own?’
God asks, ‘How does a person use what he or she has been given?’ ~Anonymous~
Music Video – “Let Mercy Hold You” (Jason Crabb)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Give Thanks”
Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks, because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son. (repeat)
And now, let the weak say, “I am strong.” Let the poor say, “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us. (repeat)
Give thanks.

OFFERTORY PRAYER
Leader: Dear God, holy and eternal, your love is living water for our lives.
All: In your love there is abundance for all, and we pray that in our lives others will come to know you and your abundance. Bless these gifts and our lives. In your love, may we move closer to the joy of Easter day. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT BY INTINCTION (Special music played during Communion)

BENEDICTION/DISSMISSAL

Leader: “The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.” Jesus spoke these words to the Samaritan woman at the well. And she went back to the city and said, “Come and see!” Go forth from this place today to share the Good News. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Amen.

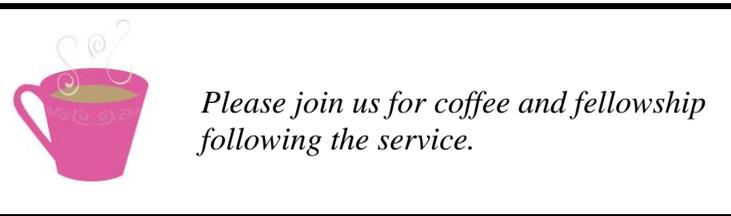
DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving one another!

All: Thanks Be to God!

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! “Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” (Psalm 95:2).

As we celebrate Holy Communion by Intinction this morning, we invite all baptized Christians who seek forgiveness and who believe in Christ’s real presence in the Sacrament to join us at the altar. * If you want Pastor Don to come to you with Communion, please let an usher know. *****



This Week at GRACE

Today: 10:00 am: Sunday School
Mon: 1:00 pm: Days for Girls @ Grace
Tues: 4:30 pm: Bread Give-Away @ Courthouse
6:00 pm: Church Council meeting
Wed: 5:30 pm: Supper
6:30 pm: Worship (Holy Communion)
7:00 pm: Luther League
7:00 pm: Choir
Thurs: 12:00 pm: Lenten Luncheon @ United Methodist Church
Sun: 9:00 am: Worship
10:00 am: Sunday School
10:00 am: Women’s Bible Study

Attendance 3/8/2020: 106

This week's offering total was \$2,084.00. This includes Sunday's and Wednesday's offerings, and direct EFT through First Savings Bank. Our weekly offering goal is \$2,900.00. We were \$816.00 under goal. Remember - to ensure all bills and salaries of the church are paid, we need to meet our weekly goal!!!!

Thank you to the following people for helping with our Worship service this morning: Tim & Jennifer Verhey, reader Derek Nolan, greeters Kevin & Kaylyn Andersen & family, Communion Assistants Robb & Shari Jensen, and A/V assistant Derek Nolan.

Announcements:

Please join us for this week's Lenten activities:

Wednesday, March 18:

5:30 – 6:15 pm: Supper by our chefs of the week: Luther League.
Soup is on the menu.
6:30 pm: Worship with Holy Communion. This week's speaker will be Chela Bolte.

Thursday, March 19

12:00 pm: Lenten Luncheon at United Methodist Church.



Registration is open for Parker Community VBS 2020. VBS will be held June 7-10:
Sunday 4:30-8:30
Monday & Tuesday 6:30-8:30
Wednesday is the program at 6:30.
VBS is open to Preschool age 4 through those just completing 6th grade. We hope your kids can join us. Please help spread the word and register at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/parkervbs>
If you would like to help with VBS, please sign up on the bulletin board.

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