

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parker, South Dakota

Rev. Don Reiffenberger, Pastor

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

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Second Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2020

## PRELUDE, VISUAL PRAYERS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

Leader: As we gather this Second Sunday in Lent, let us reflect together as God's people in a world divided and distressed.

**All: May we remember that the world is not conspiring against us. We have one job. Believe.**

Leader: Let us understand that we cannot understand. May we believe anyway. May we believe even when it's hard.

**All: We are not required to understand God in order to be loved by God. God is taking all things – the good and the bad – and making them work together for his purposes.**

*~ The second candle is extinguished ~*

Leader: God is present. God is still speaking to us. All we need to do is believe. Together, we pray:

**All: Gracious God, we journey on during these Lenten days. We are looking for direction and guidance. We look to Jesus, our guide and counsel. We look to him and seek more each day to follow him. Let this season of Lent be a powerful experience for us as we seek to live Lent as people who speak Jesus. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Loving God, your light has come into the world, but we too often hide in the shadows.

**All: Forgive us for our fear of exposure.**

Leader: Grant us the courage to name our sins in the light and turn from our evil ways.

**All: For we pray with the confidence that your Son came, not to condemn us, but to give us hope and salvation. Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

### PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Jesus died with his arms wide open as an everlasting reminder of our pardon for our sins. All who believe in him have received forgiveness of sin and are freed to live a whole and lasting life.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and granted peace. Thanks Be to God!**

### OPENING HYMN

*"Lift High the Cross"*

ELW 660

### KYRIE/PRAYER OF THE DAY

*"Peace, Be Still"*

Spoken Words – Cantor – ALL [5x]

Peace, be still.

Peace, be still.

The storm rages.

Peace, be still.

Leader: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.

**All: Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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

Genesis 12:1-4a

### THE READING RESPONSE

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

### RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 121

### THE SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Are You Dressed for the Wedding?"*

Choir

### KID TALK

*"How to Love Your Neighbor"*

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Please remain **standing** for The Gospel)

### THE GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

(Pew Bible p. 71 – 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

*"God Loves Us Whether We Like It or Not"*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"*

ELW 325

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Together let us proclaim our shared faith:

**All: We are not alone. We live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus to reconcile and to make all things new. We trust God, who calls us to be the church; to love and serve others, to seek justice and to resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified, dead and risen; our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Congregational response after each petition of "Lord, in your mercy:" **"Hear our prayer."**)

## RETURNING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*"One verse in every six in the first three Gospels relates, either directly or indirectly, to money. Sixteen of our Lord's 44 parables deal with the use or misuse of money. A loving, joyful, liberal giving to the Lord's work is an acid test of a spiritual heart, pleasing to God." ~William E. Allen~*  
**Music Video – "He Knows What He's Doing" (Jason Crabb)**

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**"We Are Called"**

**ELW 720 (vs. 1 & Refrain)**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: God of extravagant love, fill our spirits with your love and place upon our hearts your call to serve all in the name of Christ.

**All: We ask that you dedicate our gifts and our lives to faithful service and ministry. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## BENEDICTION/DISMISSAL

Leader: Created in the image of God, redeemed by the cross of Christ, empowered by God's Spirit, we are sent...

**All: sent to live as faithful, loving stewards of God's gracious gifts of life, hope and joy. Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

**"Borning Cry"**

**ELW 732 (The last two lines are vs. 4)**

## DISMISSAL

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

**All: Thanks Be to God!**

**Dear family of God, welcome to Worship! May you be blessed, and be a blessing to others, during our time together here and in the coming days.**

## This Week at GRACE

Today: 10:00 am: Sunday School  
10:00 am: Women's Bible Study  
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 @ First Presbyterian Church  
Sat: 9:00 am: Church on the Street, Sioux Falls  
Sun: 9:00 am: Worship (Communion by Intinction)  
10:00 am: Sunday School

*Thank you to the following people for helping with our Worship service this morning: ushers Jim White & Jenn Wall, reader Robin Nogelmeier, greeters Nikki Allcock & family, and A/V assistant Grace Reiffenberger.*

This week's offering total was **\$5,373.20**. This includes Sunday's and Wednesday's offerings, and direct EFT through First Savings Bank. We exceeded our weekly offering goal of \$2,900 which helps to ensure that all of our bills and salaries are paid timely!!

### **Please join us for this week's Lenten activities:**

#### **Wednesday, March 4**

5:30 – 6:15 pm: Supper by our chefs of the week: Eric & Kerri Meyer and Mike & Erin Patten. Scalloped potatoes & ham and green beans are on the menu.

6:30 pm: Worship with Holy Communion. This week's speaker will be Shirley Oswald.

#### **Thursday, March 5**

12:00 pm: Lenten Luncheon at First Presbyterian Church.

**Christ in Our Home** devotionals for April, May, and June are here. Please pick up a copy from the shelf in the narthex.



February's Fishbowl Offering total was \$113.49, and will go toward Luther League's "For the Love of Lent" service projects. March Fishbowl will go to Bob Masters, who is battling cancer.



The FROGS (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders) are sponsoring a “Church on the Street” ministry event on

**Saturday, March 14.**

A bus will leave Grace at **9:00am** for the Sioux Falls Ministry Center Downtown (225 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St.). We will help set up for Worship and a meal, participate in Worship (Pastor Don is preaching and presiding over Communion), serve a meal, and help with clean-up. We will leave Sioux Falls around **1:30pm**. Help us get an accurate count of the number of people joining us on the bus by signing up out in the narthex (beginning this Sunday). If you can help by providing **plates, napkins, cups** (for coffee) and **water bottles**, a collection container will be out in the narthex.

**Desserts** are needed for that Saturday (*to be delivered to Grace on Friday, March 13*).

We are to plan for approximately **200** people!!



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