



ASH
WEDNESDAY

Grace Ministries

*Serving the Portland Area
With the Means of Grace
For over 100 years...*

As a Church
As a School
As a Preschool
As a Mission
As a Ministry



A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care

Grace Lutheran Church

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Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor, Thad Bitter

Principal, Justin Eternick

Organist, Mark Leitzke

February 17th, 2021



Welcome!

Grace ~ "I am not ashamed of the gospel..."



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

Grace ~ "These are written that you may believe..."



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for over 100 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God's Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

Grace ~ "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God's grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen." II Peter 3:1**

Ash Wednesday – February 17th , 2021

Worship Today - The mood of Ash Wednesday is solemn because it begins the 40 days of Lent, the season during which the Church remembers the passion and death of Jesus. During these 40 days Christians examine their lives and repent of the sin that sent the Savior to the cross. Our Ash Wednesday worship begins with the timeless rite of the imposition of ashes, a solemn symbol that has deep roots and wide precedent in both the Old and New Testament. Ashes symbolize human mortality and the deserved destruction of all who sin. Like Job, believers throughout the ages repent in "dust and ashes." The symbol, joined to a right understanding of its meaning, emphasizes in a striking way the absoluteness and enormity of sin. *Receiving ashes is not mandatory.* This year, during COVID restrictions we will use a *self-imposition* of ash for yourself and your families with the words: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

THE GREETING

M: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin, we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. During the forty days of Lent we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. The time of Lent reminds us that, in order to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and our neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence

*Savior, when in dust to you Low we bow in homage due,
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
Oh, by all your pains and woe Suffered once for us below,
Bending from your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!*

*By your deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,
Oh, from earth to heav'n restored, Mighty, re-ascended Lord,
Bending from your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!*

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Most holy and merciful Father:

C: We confess to you and to one another and before the whole company of heaven that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have failed to do.

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives:

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our exploitation of other people:

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our anger at our frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves:

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work:

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us:

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

- M: Pardon us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.
- C: Forgive us, O Lord.**
- M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will:
- C: Forgive us, O Lord.**
- M: Restore us, O Lord, and let your anger depart from us:
- C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER

- M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.
- C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.**
- M: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,
- C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

THE EXHORTATION

- M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, during these days of Lent we implore him to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in true faith, and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.**

THE LESSON

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’

¹³ “However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

¹⁴ “I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

SERMON

Luke 18:9-14

THE 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.

OFFERING



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE 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.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Liturgical responses will be spoken this evening.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

M: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heaven and earth are full of your glory.

C: Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us!

C: **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us!**

DISTRIBUTION

Thank you for honoring our practice of "close" communion. The Bible teaches that participating in the Lord's Supper is an expression of complete unity of faith (1 Cor. 10:17). We lovingly ask, therefore, that before joining in this, the highest act of fellowship, a unity of faith based on the Bible be established through membership in this congregation or in a sister congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

CW #387: **Drawn to the Cross**

***Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in you my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.***

***How well you know my griefs and fears,
Your grace abused, my misspent years;
So now to you with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.***

***Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing through your cross and pain, Christ crucified, I come.***

***To pledge my labor willingly,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.***