

**Welcome to
Grace Lutheran Church
430 5th Ave. SW**

Hutchinson, MN 55350

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†Make Disciples for Jesus through Word & Sacrament†

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

Organist: Elizabeth Kurth

The Son of God Goes Forth to War

Instructions for the Beginning of Lent

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. 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 40 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 God. The time of Lent reminds us that 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 neighbor.

Therefore let us confess our sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit ourselves to this struggle.

Opening Hymn: #106 *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain*

Order of Worship: Service of Word and Sacrament on page 26

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 59:12-20

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 51a on page 86 in front of hymnal

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

Gospel Lesson: Luke 18:9-14

Children's Sermon

Sermon Hymn: #122 *Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle*

Sermon Text: Isaiah 42:13

Sermon Theme: The Promised Warrior

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed on page 31 in front of the hymnal

The Gathering of Our Gifts to the Praise and Glory of God

Prayer of the Church on page 32 in front of the hymnal

The Lord's Prayer

The Sacrament on page 33 in front of the hymnal

Hymn #312 *Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared*

Hymn #317 *O Lord, We Praise You* – verse 1 (sung in place of Thank the Lord)

Closing Prayer & Blessing

Closing Hymn: #592 *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night*

The Lord's Supper

In I Corinthians 10:16-17 and 11:23-29 God's Word gives us important instructions concerning the reception of the Lord's Supper. In keeping with these instructions we practice "close communion" at Grace Lutheran Church. We ask that only confirmed members at Grace or members of other WELS or ELS congregations come forward for the Lord's Supper today. If you are not a WELS or ELS member and would like to discuss reception of the Lord's Supper please speak with Pastor Tobison.

Farewell to Alleluia

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. We begin the solemn journey with our Savior to the cross. While the joy that is ours in Christ remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent takes on the form of quiet meditation. For centuries Christian churches have followed the practice of omitting the word *alleluia* which means "praise the Lord" from the liturgy during Lent. Beginning tonight we bid farewell to *alleluia* to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter morning as we gather to praise our risen Lord.

Next Wednesday evening Pastor Panning from St. Paul's in Litchfield will be preaching on the theme *Skirmishes*. The Long Range Planning Committee will be serving tacos & wraps for supper beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The area **Pastors will be rotating pulpits** this year. We will be having Pastor Panning, Pastor DeVries and Pastor Engel in the upcoming weeks as our guest pastors.

Immanuel Lutheran School students will be beautifying our service with their voices at Grace this coming Sunday. Come and listen to the children giving praise to God.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 3-Year Lectionary, Year A
Evangelical Heritage Version TM

First Lesson: Isaiah 59:12-20

12 Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before you, and our sins testify against us. Our rebellious deeds are with us, and as for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them. **13** Those deeds are rebellion and treachery against the LORD. We turn back from following our God. We incite oppression and apostasy. We conceive and mutter deceitful words from our hearts. **14** Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away, for truth stumbles in the city square, and honesty cannot enter it. **15** The truth is missing, and anyone who turns from evil makes himself prey. The LORD looked and saw something evil— there was no justice. **16** He saw that there was no one. He was appalled that there was no one who could intervene. So his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness supported him. **17** He clothed himself with righteousness like armor and wore a helmet of salvation on his head. He dressed in garments for vengeance, and he wrapped himself with zeal like a cloak. **18** He will repay in full what they have earned, namely, wrath to his foes and full payment to his enemies. He will repay even the distant coastlands. **19** From the west they will fear the LORD's name, and from the rising of the sun they will fear his glory, for he will come like a raging river, driven by the Spirit of the LORD. **20** Then a redeemer will come for Zion and for those in Jacob who turn from rebellion. This is the declaration of the LORD.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

20b We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21** God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. **6:1** As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. **2** For he says: At a favorable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

Gospel: 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."

Sermon Text: Isaiah 42:13

13 The Lord will set out like a hero. Like a warrior, he will work himself into a frenzy. He will shout. Yes, he will raise a war cry. He will be heroic against his enemies.

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