



Jesus Welcomes Sinners

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 31, 2019

6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | www.kingofgracelutheran.com | Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors: Erwin Ekhoﬀ, Aaron Ferkenstad, & Ben Wiechmann | Principal: Allen Labitzky

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall.

Matins

God the Father has opened his heart to us in love. While we were still a long way off, he saw us and felt compassion. Therefore, he gave his only begotten Son for us, making Christ—who never sinned—to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God. He runs to us, embraces us in mercy and clothes us with his glory as beloved children in Christ Jesus.

HYMN

Children of the Heavenly Father | #174

The order of service is printed on page 109 in the front portion of the hymnary.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 12:1–6

Isaiah calls on Israel to rejoice in the knowledge that God will act to save his people. God is our salvation, and his day has come and is coming again.

¹In that day you will say:

"I will praise you, O LORD.

Although you were angry with me,

your anger has turned away

and you have comforted me.

²Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.”

³With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

⁴In that day you will say:

“Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done,
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Thine Image | #593

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

This salvation of lost sinners that God has performed is a completely free gift. It makes us into new people who are commissioned to share this news with others.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN

Jesus, Priceless Treasure | #264

The Gospel reading explains Jesus' reason for coming into this world and dying upon the cross: to recover what was lost, and it emphasizes the forgiving nature of God the Father.

¹Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.”

³Then Jesus told them this parable:

¹¹“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no-one gave him anything.

¹⁷“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ ²⁰So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²²“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I

could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

OFFERING AND PRAYERS

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

HYMN

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive | #426

The service concludes on the bottom of page 116 in the front portion of the hymnary.

Announcements

PRAYER REQUESTS? Please contact Wanda Warnke at 612-529-1497.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 369 worshiped on Sunday, and 140 worshiped on Wednesday.

OFFERING LAST WEEK

Average Needed Per Sunday: \$16,154

Received Last Week: \$11,025

Average Needed Year to Date: \$630,006

Received Year to Date: \$677,425

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are placed in the sanctuary today by the Schilling family in memory of loving mother and grandmother, Connie Schilling, who was called to heaven two years ago today, March 31.

BAPTISM

We welcome a new Christian into our family this morning through the waters of holy Baptism. William Allen Kreuter was born on March 22 and is born again this morning. Standing at the font with his parents, Aaron and Serena, are Daniel and Calleigh Stavig.

FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Today after both services, please stop by the tables in the Narthex to view a sample copy of the directory. This is your last chance to review the accuracy of your information that goes in the directory before it is printed. There will also be information about submitting a photo if yours is missing. Please see a member of the Membership Committee if you have questions.

PIONEERS TO SERVE AND SING AT APRIL 3 LENTEN SERVICE

All of our Boy and Girl Pioneers will be making homemade soups and chili at their Pioneers meeting on Tuesday, April 2. They will be serving their delicious concoctions at the Wednesday 5:30 Lenten Soup Supper and singing at the 6:30 Lenten service. Both a gluten-free and dairy-free item will be available. Pioneers should wear their Pioneers shirts and report to the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 PM on Wednesday to help serve the meal and will sit together in the choir loft for the evening service.

FUNERAL OF ORLA PETERSEN

Orla died on Tuesday, March 26. Her funeral will be on Friday, April 5 at 11:00 AM at Mt. Olive in Mankato with visitation at 9:00 AM.

THANK YOU FROM JIM TOBIAS

Thank you to everyone for the cards, phone calls, and visits as I am recovering from a fall and injury. I really appreciate your kindness and prayers. With gratitude, Jim Tobias.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

If you are a young lady interested in studying the story of Redemption, we invite you to join us as we read the Bible cover to cover in an upcoming study. We plan to meet **every other Tuesday at 7:00 PM** starting this **Tuesday, March 26**. Feel free to reach out to Jenna Albrecht at jalbrecht@blc.edu or Lauren Farquhar at lfarquhar@blc.edu with questions or for more information.

EASTER FLOWERS

Please help make our sanctuary beautiful for Easter! Please fill out a pink order sheet (located at the Welcome Center in the narthex) and return it with your payment to the church office or to the Flower Committee box in the ushers' room. Make your check payable to King of Grace. The deadline for ordering is **Wednesday, April 3**.

"THINK SPRING" – PLANT AND FLOWER SALE

Once again, King of Grace Lutheran School is having a spring fundraiser from Gertens. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center in the narthex. **Forms and payment are due back to the office by Thursday, April 4**. Pickup is on Friday, May 10 in the upper parking lot from 1 PM - 4 PM. If you have any questions, please call Brandy Warning at **763-951-3117** or email her at bjwarning@yahoo.com. Thank you for supporting our school!

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Are you a caregiver and provide care to an aging parent, a child with needs, spouse, sibling, friend or neighbor? Please join us to learn how to make caregiving easier and less stressful while engaging in supportive conversations through faith on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 – 10:00 AM starting **April 6** here at King of Grace. Please contact Theresa at theresa.carriger@alaska.com for more information.

SEEKING PRESCHOOL AIDES

King of Grace Lutheran School is seeking Aides to work in our preschool for the 2019-2020 academic year. Anyone interested should submit a short cover letter and brief resumé to Principal Labitzky.

BLOOD DRIVE THURSDAY APRIL 25

The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring another blood drive on **Thursday, April 25** from 1:00 – 7:00 PM. To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: **KingOfGraceGV**.

SAVE THE DATE: 2019 WEST GALA

Save-the-date! The 2019 West Lutheran High School Gala/Auction will be on Saturday, **April 27** at the Crowne Plaza. This year's theme is "Moonlight Masquerade."

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: FUND REQUESTS?

Is your Board or Committee seeking funds for projects that were not covered by your current budget? If so, please submit a Fund Request to the church office and the Endowment Committee will consider it as we disburse earnings from the KoG Endowment Fund.

Request Due Date: April 28, 2018

Funds available for distribution: \$3,000 - \$5,000

Please include the following:

- Name of individual or group requesting the gift
- Requestor contact information (phone, email)
- Requested amount
- Clearly stated & detailed purpose & goal to be accomplished by the gift
- Timeline for implementation (if gift is approved)

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

As you stand in awe of the many blessings God has given you over the past year, please consider a donation to the King of Grace Endowment Fund (cash, stocks or securities). Earnings from this fund are disbursed each year based on qualified requests from KoG boards, committees and/or individual members. Thank you!

Some of the disbursements over the past few years include

- King of Grace kitchen supplies
- ELS World Outreach – facilities repair for pro-life facility in the Ukraine
- West Lutheran High – new STEM academic program funding
- New ELS Catechisms for KoG members and parents of confirmands
- King of Grace security locks for school doors
- King of Grace C3 Youth Group

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR JAPANESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

- ~ Short term! 8/5 to 8/26
- ~ Host homes can be couples, families, singles
- ~ Students study at Bethel University Monday - Friday
- ~ Stipend & transportation help provided
- ~ Planting seeds of faith for 25 years

Interested? Please contact Deb Anderson: djamwa@aol.com or 763.522.5051

Calendar

| | | |
|------------------|---------|--|
| Today | 9:30 am | “Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer” with Pastor Ekhoﬀ “We Believe, Teach, and Confess” with Pastor Ferkenstad “Resurrections” with Pastor Wiechmann |
| Monday | 7:00 pm | Board of Elders |
| Tuesday | 9:30 am | Women’s Bible Study |
| | 6:30 pm | Jesus Cares |
| | 6:30 pm | Pioneers |
| Wednesday | 4:00 pm | Grades 7 & 8 Confirmation Class |
| | 5:30 pm | Soup Supper (Pioneers Serve) |
| | 6:30 pm | Lenten Service |
| Thursday | 9:45 am | King’s Littlest Kids |
| | 7:00 pm | Senior Choir |
| Friday | 7:00 pm | Girl Pioneers Sleepover |
| Saturday | 8:30 am | Men’s Bible Study |
| | 9:00 am | Caregiver Support Group |
| Sunday | 9:30 am | “Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer” with Pastor Ekhoﬀ “We Believe, Teach, and Confess” with Pastor Ferkenstad “Resurrections” with Pastor Wiechmann |

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher..... Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ | **Liturgist** Rev. Aaron Ferkenstad
Special Music..... Handbells | **Director**..... Katrina Holbird
Organist..... Karen Merseth

SERVING IN SUPPORT

Counters Today Carol and Ken Johnson, Nathan and Polly Potratz
 Counters Wednesday..... Ann Werner, Jeff and Julia Ripley
 Counters Next Sunday Cindy and John Costello, Leah Wandersee
Usher Captains Today Tom Studanski, Curtis Merchant
 Usher Captain Wednesday Steve Kopacek
 Usher Captains Next Sunday Bruce Christensen, Loren Braun
Video Team Today Gerry Reason
 Video Team Wednesday Kirk Guillaume
 Video Team Next Sunday..... TBD
Coffee Clean Up Today..... Board of Trustees
 Coffee Setup Next Sunday Altos & Basses
 Coffee Clean Up Next Sunday..... Board of Elders
April Altar Guild..... Alice Ringen, Barb Cummings

Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers

Begin at 5:30 PM

Worship Begins at 6:30 PM

Serving Schedule

April 3- Pioneers

April 10- Board of Trustees & Stewardship Committee

Every week Gluten-free soup is available upon request

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM

Good Friday 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday 8:15 and 10:45 AM (Easter Breakfast 9:30)

