



# *Faith in the Face of Tragedy*

Third Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2019

6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | [www.kingofgracelutheran.com](http://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.

## *Service of the Word*

*At its heart, our Lenten journey must be one of Spirit-created repentance. During Lent it is good for us to examine our lives to discover attitudes, practices, and habits that are out of sync with our new baptismal lives. The readings for the Third Sunday in Lent deliver God's gracious and patient invitation to us: turn from sin and live.*

### HYMN

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* | #8

### INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

**C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.**

HYMN

*On My Heart Imprint Thine Image* | #593

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we live repentant lives: Holy and merciful God, we thank you for giving your Son Jesus to die on the cross for us sinners. Turn us away from our sins and back to a life of trust in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 33:7–20

*The Lord has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but he wants the wicked to turn from their way and live. Repentance is the key factor in avoiding divine judgment.*

<sup>7</sup>“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. <sup>9</sup>But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will be saved yourself.

<sup>10</sup> “Son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ <sup>11</sup> Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?’

<sup>12</sup> “Therefore, son of man, say to your countrymen, ‘The righteousness of the righteous man will not save him when he disobeys, and the wickedness of the wicked man will not cause him to fall when he turns from it. The righteous man, if he sins, will not be allowed to live because of his former righteousness.’ <sup>13</sup> If I tell the righteous man that he will surely live, but then he trusts in his righteousness and does evil, none of the righteous things he has done will be remembered; he will die for the evil he has done. <sup>14</sup> And if I say to the wicked man, ‘You will surely die,’ but he then turns away from his sin and does what is just and right — <sup>15</sup> if he gives back what he took in pledge for a loan, returns what he has stolen, follows the decrees that give life, and does no evil, he will surely live; he will not die. <sup>16</sup> None of the sins he has committed will be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he will surely live.

<sup>17</sup> “Yet your countrymen say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ But it is their way that is not just. <sup>18</sup> If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and does evil, he will die for it. <sup>19</sup> And if a wicked man turns away from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he will live by doing so. <sup>20</sup> Yet, O house of Israel, you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ But I will judge each of you according to his own ways.”

## HYMN

*The Power of the Cross* | Senior Choir

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

*Even some of the chosen Israelites fell into sin and lost God’s free gift of salvation. This has been written down for our instruction, so that we should not desire evil, but trust in Christ to be our strength.*

<sup>1</sup>For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup>They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup>They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup>and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” <sup>8</sup>We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup>We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup>And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

<sup>11</sup>These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! <sup>13</sup>No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

**C: 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.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### HYMN

*I Come to Thee, O Blessed Lord* | #495

## SERMON

*Faith in the Face of Tragedy | Luke 13:1–9*

*In our world filled with tragedy, where is God? When Jesus was asked to comment on a recent mass murder, what He said would cause outrage and offense today. But these offensive words are words we need to hear!*

<sup>1</sup>Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

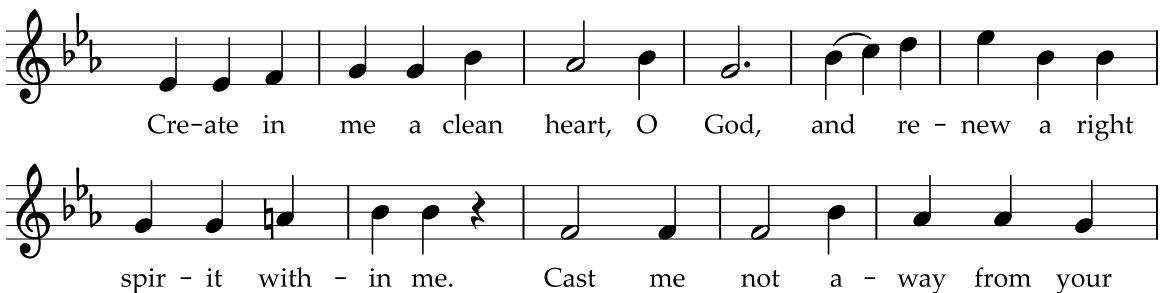
<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig-tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

<sup>8</sup>“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig round it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

## HYMN

*Create in Me*

*This hymn, from Psalm 51, is the words of King David after his fall into sin with Bathsheba, and his recovery into God’s kingdom of grace through the work of the prophet, Nathan. With this hymn, we offer our lives to the Lord as a high doxology—a hymn of praise to the blessed Trinity. We then bring our offerings to the altar as a pledge of our total self-offering to him.*



pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

## OFFERTORY

*Prelude in A Flat Major*

## OFFERING AND PRAYERS

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

## HYMN

*Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name | #597*

## PRAYER

- P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Lord God the Father, that you have given your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have borne in your sacred body all our sins, and by your blood have blotted out all our transgressions. We thank you, Lord the Holy Spirit, that you have created in our hearts true faith, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
- P: O God, grant us your grace, that we may perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so enlighten us by your Holy Spirit, that—in the power of our Redeemer’s death—we may day by day put off sin and never forsake the Lord Jesus Christ, until we see him face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ’s name. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

- P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.





# *Announcements*

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:** 398 worshiped on Sun., and 220 worshiped on Wed.

## **OFFERING LAST WEEK**

Average Needed Per Sunday: \$16,154

Average Needed Year to Date: \$613,852

Received Last Week: \$17,223

Received Year to Date: \$666,400

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar flowers are placed in the sanctuary today by Leah Wandersee in memory of her father, Waldemar Giese.

## **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.

## **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.

## **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS DEADLINE**

If you are a Thrivent member, please log into your account and direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by **March 29**. Choice dollars must be directed annually.

## **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**.

## **PASSOVER MEAL - REDEEMING GRACE**

**Behold the Lamb of God: Christ in the Passover.** Begin your Holy Week by discovering Christ in the Passover on Sunday, April 14 at **Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church in Rogers**. Our program begins at **4:00 PM**. Seating is limited, please RSVP to Ron Menough by **April 1** at **763-497-2803** or **pinmen2@centurylink.net**.

## **“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](http://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."

## 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](mailto:djamwa@aol.com) or 763.522.5051

## *Calendar*

<b>Today</b>	9:30 am	"Catechism: The Lord's Prayer" with Pastor Ekhooff "We Believe, Teach, and Confess" with Pastor Ferkenstad "Resurrections" with Pastor Wiechmann
<b>Monday</b>	6:30 pm	Administration Committee
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
	6:30 pm	King's Daughters
<b>Wednesday</b>	5:30 pm	Soup Supper (Board of Elders Serves)
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 pm	Senior Choir
<b>Saturday</b>	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 am	"Catechism: The Lord's Prayer" with Pastor Ekhooff "We Believe, Teach, and Confess" with Pastor Ferkenstad "Resurrections" with Pastor Wiechmann

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**Preacher**.....Rev. Ben Wiechmann | **Liturgist** ..... Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ  
**Special Music**..... Senior Choir | **Director**..... Allen Labitzky  
**Organist**..... Karen Merseth | **Offertory Pianist**..... Katherine Guillaume

## SERVING IN SUPPORT

**Counters Today** ..... Lori Helmen, Jim and Barb Cummings  
    **Counters Wednesday**..... Deb Anderson, Beth and Jerry Hoem  
    **Counters Next Sunday** ..... Carol and Ken Johnson, Nathan and Polly Potratz  
**Usher Captains Today** ..... John Vomhof, Sr., Brian Pederson  
    **Usher Captain Wednesday** ..... John Woodington  
    **Usher Captains Next Sunday** ..... Tom Studanski, Curtis Merchant  
**Video Team Today** ..... Ben Oppitz  
    **Video Team Wednesday** ..... TBD  
    **Video Team Next Sunday**..... Gerry Reason  
**Coffee Clean Up Today**..... Administration Committee  
    **Coffee Setup Next Sunday** ..... Sopranos & Tenors  
    **Coffee Clean Up Next Sunday**..... Board of Trustees  
**March Altar Guild**..... Patty McDowell, Carolyn Kopacek

## Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers

Begin at 5:30 PM

Worship Begins at 6:30 PM

### Serving Schedule

**March 27-** Board of Elders – South of the Border, Cream of Potato, & Chicken Noodle

**April 3-** Pioneers

**April 10-** Board of Trustees & Stewardship Committee

\*Every week Gluten-free soup is available upon request\*