

We believe that God loves us without regard for our race or culture, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, physical or mental health, life circumstance or socio-economic situation. Therefore, we extend that same grace-filled love to you.

The work of welcome is hard; the way of love is always a work in process. But we're committed to the biblical call of reconciliation and to change what we need to, both personally and as a community, so that we – all of us together – become a living sign of God's extravagant grace.

In Christ's name, all are welcome here. We are honored by your presence and by your participation in helping us make this vision of welcome a reality for all people.

Our VISION is

"to be a Christ-centered

Community who welcomes all, grows in faith, and reaches out in love."

Our MISSION is

"to follow Christ into our community and world manifesting with caring hearts and helping hands the good news of the Kingdom of God."



**Whoever you are, Whatever your past,
However you live, Whomever you love –
You are welcome here.**

March 2021
volume XX
issue 3

Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Mid Week Lenten Service

Wednesdays during Lent at 7pm
On YouTube

Holy Week Schedule

March 28, 2021 at 10 am
Palm/Passion Sunday (YouTube)

April 1, 2021 at 7 pm
Maundy Thursday Service (YouTube)

April 2, 2021
Region 1 Good Friday Service (via Oregon Synod website) time to be announced

April 3, 2021 from 7pm to 9 pm
Easter Vigil Drop-In (at Grace parking lot)

April 4, 2021 at 10 am
EASTER! (YouTube)

Prayers

This prayer list is a compilation of the requests we have received at Grace throughout the month of February. For a more timely update to the prayers, send your email address to prayers@grace97330.org, and ask to be part of the prayer list.

Prayers

- ⇒ Darlene and Jim
- ⇒ Helen
- ⇒ Marge, Mary Ann's mother
- ⇒ John, Pr. Dorothy's husband
- ⇒ The Mother of Sara, friend of Andrea

Deaths:

- ⇒ Jerry, Colleague of Pr. Dorothy
- ⇒ Ed, cousin of Pr. Netsie

Giving at a Glance Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

Contributions as of February 18, 2021

Contributions for the Month
of February: \$21,369;
February's Budget: \$31,000;
Last 2 Weeks Giving: \$21,369;
Weekly Budget: \$7,750;
YTD contributions: \$46,615;
YTD budget: \$52,175

Grace Personnel

Interim Pastor—Dorothy Nielsen

Bookkeeper - Robin Comforto

Custodian - Outside Contractor

Director of Discipling Ministries - Donna King

Director of Music Ministries - Bryson Skaar

Facebook Administrator - Rebekah Hadlock

Financial Secretary: Mary Stephens

Nursery - Mackenzie & Rachel Burnett,
Christina Lundahl, Katie Olsen & Melissa Smith

Office Administrator - Andrea Barnhurst

Office Assistant - Jody Parker

Organist/Pianist - Sunghee Kim

Percussion - Kelsey Bleck

Prayer Chain - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

If you would like a visitation or to schedule an appointment with a member of the ministerial staff, please call the office at 541.757.1600. You are welcome to leave a message on the answering machine at any hour.

Visit our Grace web page at: www.grace97330.org

Teams & Committees

Property Committee - Ron Larson, 541.752.0754

Communications Committee

Bob Keith, 541.990.2883

Sunday Hospitality

Dayle Christensen, 541.602.2818

Events Hospitality

Molly Hallgrimson, 541.753.8581

Christian Education Team

Deaconess Donna King, 541.757.6636

Altar Guild - Linda Samuels, 541.929.4222

Worship & Music Committee

Michael Beachley, 541.754.5501

Finance Committee - Hal Brauner, 541.753.0023

Personnel Committee - Nancy Strohlein,
541.926.5747

Hospital Visitation Team - Dale Weber,
541.757.3043

Healing Prayer Team - Sue Davis, 541.924.2922

Mission Groups - Bob Saathoff, 541.929.3045

Stewardship Committee

Dave Lundahl, 541.757.1358

Campus Ministry at Luther House

Mike Ostrom, Pastor, 541.753.5213

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555

Dear People of God at Grace,

Lenten greetings to you in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus.

Standley has been around a long time. He is the 175+ year old Oregon white oak that stands on our property in Silverton. We built our home to protect his roots, and he has offered afternoon shade in the summers and a reminder of time. I have been entertained by the birds and squirrels that take refuge in his branches. I wonder about the ferns and mosses that grow on him. And I wonder how best to take care of him without “taking care” of him.

The recent ice storms hit him pretty hard. By my estimation he has lost one-third of his limbs and branches. The breaks are stark and I grieve for his losses, though I suspect he has lived through a few ice storms before and will be fine. Just differently shaped.

For many centuries the Church has grown and experience a variety of storms and threats. However, in the past 25-30 years the Church has experienced significant changes; some we celebrate and some we grieve. The world around us has changed and it seems people have no need for the Church. Unlike the decades after WW2, in which the Church experienced remarkable growth. An anomaly in the history of Christianity.

We are faced with declining membership, learning new/old things about justice, people, ourselves, theology and still wondering at times if we will survive this storm or the next. Just as Standley is called by the Creator to be an Oregon white oak, and will continue to be, but differently shaped, so too is the Church called by God to be the Church, differently shaped. There are limbs and branches coming down that need to be grieved and let go.

These are not God-caused. Through these times God is with us, in order to reshape the Church, and grow new branches of understanding and being. We will grieve the past. But can we look toward the future and work for the growth that will proclaim the wonders of God’s mercy.

Lent is like the ice storms that come, breaking off, felling, stopping the busy-ness of life. There might be some need to be reshaped, to life differently than in the past, and we cling to the promise of God walking with us to show us the way, to teach us a new way of being, to dream with us new visions of proclaiming the good news in Jesus.

We have begun the second Lent in Pandemic. A year of a challenging storm that has been reshaping the whole world. Yet there have been some glimpses of hope and future. Truths have been starkly revealed about our society that must be addressed head-on, again. Partnerships with those around us, whether they believe in God or not, are necessary for our growth in faith, hope and love. And the Church still stands. Lent is Reformation. Lent is change. Lent does not scare us, because at the end of Lent is Resurrection. That is how we face the future—knowing Resurrection is part of God’s work in Christ Jesus. In us.

So, like Standley, we may lose limbs and branches, and have in the past, but life continues in new ways, because God is faithful. The Church is continuously being reshaped and renewed, still called to proclaim the good news, and to reach out to those around us in love.

God is with you,

Pr Dorothy

Pastor Dorothy Nielsen

Contact Information

Cell: 541-377-1354

Email:

prdorthy@grace97330.org

Pastor Dorothy’s

On Site Working Days

Thursday & Sunday

Off Site Working Days

*Monday - Wednesday &
Saturday*

If you go to the hospital . . .

It used to be that our pastors and the members of our Hospital Visitation Team could go to the hospital and see if any of our members had been hospitalized. In these days of Covid-19, however, we are unable to go into the hospital lobby. Neither can we receive information over the phone. So, if you become aware that any of our members or family of our members have been hospitalized, the pastor would greatly appreciate you sharing this with them. Also, please know that we will respect any and all requests for confidentiality.

Connecting via Phone



Thanks to those members of Grace who have taken on a ministry of checking in on some of the more isolated members of our community during this time of “sheltering at home.” Given this, there may still be a need for conversation that we have not anticipated. If you’re someone who would like to be assigned a “phone friend,” please call the church office, 541-757-1600, and leave a message to let us know. We will make sure someone gets in touch with you.



February Council Minutes

February Council Minutes, Executive Committee meeting, and other interesting items can be found in a binder on the church office counter. Should you want them emailed to you, please just notify us at office@grace97330.org. You are also welcome to attend council meetings, should you want to know what is going on or have something you would like to talk about.

February Meeting Minutes can be found online at:

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Council-meeting-minutes-02-08-21.pdf>

Welcome to your 2021 Grace Church Council

We welcome newest council members Mike Franklin, Jeff Beck, Robyn Vega, Mary Ann Matzke and youngest member Isaac Hadlock.

Returning members include President Bob Keith, Vice President Kendra Wollert, Secretary Nancy Hemming, Rebekah Hadlock, Meredith Junge, Dave Lundahl, and Sandie Williams

*Church Council Reports are
always available in the
church office for you to read.*



President:
Bob Keith
Vice President:
Kendra Wollert
Secretary:
Nancy Hemming
Treasurer:
Hal Brauner
Financial Secretary:
Mary Stephens
Council Members:
Jeff Beck
Mike Franklin
Isaac Hadlock
Rebekah Hadlock
Meredith Junge
Dave Lundahl
Mary Ann Matzke
Pr. Dorothy Nielsen
Robyn Vega
Sandie Williams



Notes from the Library

The Grace Library Committee has been meeting regularly, and we recently held a Quarterly meeting on Zoom January 21, 2021. The meeting was our Mid-Willamette Chapter of the Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries. About 6 individual members attended from 5 churches. From Grace Church, Linda Samuels and I were present. Meeting Virtually by Zoom is convenient, but our attendance for our quarterly meetings is down from the regular in person gatherings.

We conducted a brief business meeting, including the tentative plans for our 2021, 2022 and 2023 PNACL Conferences as they needed modifying and rearranging. We shared news of our efforts and continuing Library patronage. Some of the churches, like First Baptist Church of Brownsville are open for services and people are reading and checking out books. Other churches, like the First Presbyterian Church, have been locked down and closed entirely due to the pandemic precautions, and so First Presbyterian Church Library is closed completely.

Grace Library is open, as the church is open. People who have keys to the church, or who come in on Monday and Thursday, or who request books to be delivered to them, may check out a book from Grace Church Library. A few people are reading Grace books this way.

Our activity for the PNACL meeting was to make bookmarks out of old calendars and greeting cards. Lauri Blumenstein of Scio Baptist Church led the demonstration with cutting board, scissors, ruler, hole punch, yarn or ribbon and contact paper. As we busied ourselves measuring, cutting, hole punching and using the contact paper making colorful bookmarks, we visited about what we've been reading and the challenges of running a library in the times of COVID.

Don't forget!! You can always request a book for checkout from your Grace Church Library.
From Jody Parker

Stewardship Stories

When I was 12 I started cleaning house for a teacher who had hurt her back. The money was better than babysitting, by far. One Saturday my Mom asked me how much I had earned that week, and excitedly I said "\$14!" Oh the plans I had for that tidy little sum: a couple of books, a cute stylish top for school, and maybe even a movie. Then Mom asked me how much I would be putting in my Middle School offering envelope the next day. Uh-oh!

My parents had taught my sister and me that we give a tithe as our offering to God. A tithe is 10%. A dollar and 40 cents. One of the books I wanted was \$1.59. That day is still vivid in my memories. A tithe. Ten percent.

I also knew that using my Middle/High School offering envelopes half of the money went to the General Fund and half went to the Junior/Senior Luther League. It was then I realized that my ability to earn money was to benefit the mission of the Church as well as my interests.

Over the years, my parents' lessons and example have guided my giving. There have been lean times when the best I could give was 5%, yet God always gives 100%. When earnings increased, I have been able to give more. I give because I believe in the mission of the Church formed by God to be a blessing in this world in whatever ways possible. —Pr Dorthy



Birthday Blessings!

Please let the office know if there is a birthdate listed incorrectly, or if we have omitted someone in error.

Stanley Miles	03/03
Shelley Chamberlin	03/04
Ron Larson	03/05
Adele Neukomm	03/05
Michael Gallagher	03/07
Jaya Lapham	03/07
Michael Kinch	03/09
Shelly Lundahl	03/09
Lillian White	03/09
Becky Kiersky	03/10
Kathy Vohland	03/16
Todd Weber	03/19
Carol Guard	03/20
Doris Peters	03/20

Maia Gelser	03/21
Leighton Nichols	03/21
Diane Stadsvold	03/21
Carol Kamke	03/24
Phillip King	03/24
Allie Palmgren	03/25
Scott Shaff	03/25
Peggy Custer	03/26
Wanda Parrott	03/27
Kathy Farnsworth	03/28
MaryJane Weber	03/28
Marilyn Lesmeister	03/29
Keith Foster	03/31

March meeting of the Grace Globaliers

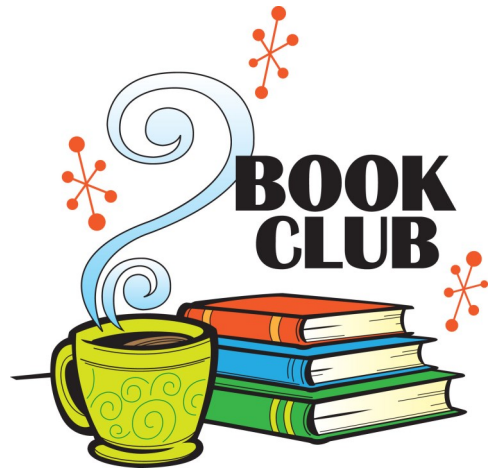
Grace Globaliers Book Group will meet Thursday, March 4, on Zoom. Carol Erickson will lead the discussion of The Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place by Terry Tempest Williams. Williams, a Naturalist-in-Residence at the Utah Museum of Natural History in Salt Lake City, writes of her mother dying of cancer while the Great Salt Lake is rising to record heights threatening a nearby bird refuge. These events are transformed from tragedy into a document of renewal and spiritual grace.

We have changed our dates and times for the remainder of this year, so please note them. All meetings will continue on Zoom.

Tuesday, April 6, 7 pm - The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. Discussion led by Marilynn Works

Tuesday, May 4, 7 pm - Tell: Love, Defiance, and the Military Trial at the Tipping Point for Gay Rights. Discussion led by Jaya Lapham

Tuesday, June 1, 7 pm - The Day the World Came to Town by Jim Defede. Discussion led by Sharon Rosenkoetter



For more information, or to join the group, contact Mary Ann Matzke at maryann.matzke@gmail.com

Grace Gatherings

While the church is closed, printed copies of Grace Gatherings are available by request. Please contact the church office to request a printed copy of Grace Gatherings to be mailed to your home.

Hearing Stories and Being the Best Neighbors Insights Sparked by the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering

Maybe we should tell more stories?

In the Growing Young cohort, we've been talking about living into the six core commitments found in congregations that connect well with younger generations. One of those commitments is being the best neighbors. "Young people," the research says, "want to be part of a community that cares about the people around them AND is doing something about it."

"What connects us as people?" Fuller Professor of Mission Dwight Radcliff asked. "It's our stories..." When we take the time to hear people and to sit inside their stories, we're drawn into active love, Jesus' kind of love that's "willing to put itself on the line for others."

Last month, five of us from Grace participated in the ELCA's (virtual) 2021 World Hunger Leadership Gathering. What we heard was stories. Lots of stories of people putting themselves "on the line" in Jesus' kind of action all around the world. <https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger#Stories>

After we let the immensity of what we'd heard sit for a few days, Linda Samuels, Wendy Geist, Jana Seeliger, Jaya Conser Lapham, and I (Donna King) asked each other, "What surprised you?" Our answers quickly turned into stories. We were surprised how many people were at the Leadership Gathering – and how many young people were running it. We thought about hunger work we'd been involved with in the past that was mostly about getting food to hungry people, how it had been hard or impossible to get people to talk about deeper issues. But this time, right alongside many innovative ideas, was also an emphasis on root causes and deeper inequities – and on how to develop real partnerships toward more just and respectful solutions. It seems like a huge leap forward.

Then we asked each other, "If we want to be 'best neighbors,' where might we go from here?" Our answers turned into more stories. We want to listen more and to dig deeper. *Why* are people in Corvallis hungry? If God gives the world abundant resources, why is it true that some do not have enough? What role can we play? So many questions.

We remembered. Over the years there have been a lot of hunger stories at Grace, not always told publicly. Stories of things that happened to and for us: Bags of groceries appearing on doorsteps when time was running out; friends opening their freezer and saying, "Here, take anything you want" to a mother who was very hungry, but even more desperate to find food to feed her children; finding courage to "turn to the light" of a better life....

And we remembered so many years of hunger-related, best-neighbor ministries through Grace – sack lunches, volunteers stocking shelves and serving on the board at the food bank, food drives around the altar, the Souper Bowl of Caring, building the children's garden and growing food to share, the Ida Fund, Luther House lunches for college students, Stone Soup, dinners at the cold weather shelters, resettling refugees (and how that turned into restaurants to feed Corvallis), the Bread Bowl challenge, and so, so much more. Grace is an amazing place, filled with God's good gifts for a hungry world. Who knows what's next?

Maybe we should hear more stories?

Please see the link below for the March 2021 issue of the Grace Foundation newsletter

http://grace97330.org/Foundation/news/202103_GLCF_newsletter.pdf

Adult Bible Study March, April and May 2021

We will continue to email to those that wish until we are able to meet together again. Contact Frank or Sue at fsndavis@msn.com if you wish to get the Bible Study lessons or ZOOM with our class on Wednesdays at 6 pm. Stay well.

Prophet's Faithful to God's Covenant

Shortly after Pope Francis remarked on the global climate crisis in 2015, a US presidential candidate opined that the pontiff should "leave science to the scientists" and suggested that the church should stick to its proper bailiwick of morality and theology (Christopher Hale, "Rick Santorum Wants Pope Francis to Leave Science to Scientists...", *Washington Post*, June 4, 2015).

Leaving aside for a moment that Pope Francis holds a degree in chemistry (and thus is a scientist), and leaving without further comment the simple observation that the global climate crisis is, in fact, a proper topic for moral and theological consideration, one wonders at the idea that the Christian church's expressions are limited to morality and theology, narrowly defined. In that view, the church and believers have no legitimate voice in public policy, the practices of business, finance, military armaments, or a host of other "secular" topics. Unfortunately, many modern believers have been led to understand that the divorce between private piety and public policy is normal and even desirable.

Such a view could not be further from what one finds in the Bible and, especially, what one discovers reading the prophets.

This quarter's study introduces the ministry of prophets. *Prophet* in the following sessions is used rather informally to describe any who were summoned to speak the word of God, including some who are not traditionally numbered among the prophets. Some of the characters encountered are well known, others are more obscure, and one remains anonymous. All of them, however, were summoned by God to speak a timely word to their own communities of faith in particular times and circumstances.

To speak a timely word to people living in a specific epoch is, in fact, the hallmark of biblical prophecy. Authentic prophets did not stand on a figurative promontory casting a predictive eye over centuries of events to foretell details of historical circumstances that neither they nor their auditor's great-great-grandchildren would live to see. Indeed, living to see that a prophet's word had come to pass was one means of determining an authentic prophet (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). Moreover, and far from limiting their subjects to morality and theology, Yahweh instructed prophets to pronounce the divine intentions about building walls, surrender to an enemy army, the treatment of foreigners, and more.

The first four sessions, drawn from Exodus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, and 1 and 2 Kings, explore the reasons prophets were necessary in Israel's history. The next four sessions reveal the compassion of God during times in Israel's history when the people continually forsook the ways of God. The final five sessions of this quarter show the boldness of God's prophets as recorded in 1 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Jonah.

Our Writer

After twenty-five years of boring students into medical comas at Wartburg College, Walter (Chip) Bouzard retired to Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, where he lives with Romano, his wife of forty-six years. Friends correctly conclude that she stays with him out of morbid curiosity. He is trying to grow Shitake mushrooms.



Camp Lutherwood

Thank You for Attending the Annual Meeting!

The Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association was held on Saturday, February 6th at 9:30am on Zoom. Thank you to everyone who attended virtually! If you missed it, you can find our Annual Report on our website. For questions please contact the camp office at 541-998-6444 or office@lutherwoodoregon.org

Register Now for Spring Work Days

Do you want to spend a day working at camp this spring? We're opening up 3 different Work Days with space for up to 5 families. These work days will be held on April 24, May 8, and June 5 from 10AM to 2PM. Reservations are required on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit our website at <https://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/work-days-2/> to request your space!

Now Hiring for Summer 2021

2021 Summer Staff applications are now available online at lutherwoodoregon.org/employment. Staff members must be at least 18 years of age by June 1, 2021 and willing to serve in a variety of roles this summer. For questions contact the camp office at office@lutherwoodoregon.org or call 541-998-6444

Summer Registration 2021

Registration will open for summer 2021 programs on March 1st. Check our website for the most up to date information about program dates and costs.

COVID-19 & Camp Lutherwood Oregon

At this time camp is open to guests by private appointment only. Please contact the office to make arrangements to ensure that we are able to accommodate all safety requirements at 541-998-6444 or office@lutherwoodoregon.org for more information and to make your request.

Grace Center News

While Grace Center has been closed for its daily activities in the building, our participants at home have been creative in many ways. The staff encourages them and has announced the opening of the Center's Gift Shop to the public. It is available online right now, but there is one good way even for people who do not have computer access to it. I had a good talk with Rebecca, the receptionist in the Center, who is very happy to "walk" you through the Gift Shop experience. To "meet" Rebecca, (who usually answers the phone), call the Grace Center at 541- 753-8517. If she doesn't answer ask for her. The public can't come in but Rebecca can help you locate items that are for sale. She can package it up and label for you to pick up on a bench outside the front door.

A majority of the items for sale are handmade. They include festive decorations, pot holders, hand warmers, T-shirts, and more. They are getting ready for spring. I've seen jewelry, too. They are hoping some birdhouses will be ready soon.

Denise wrote me that they are revamping their program and in March will have some home visits. Their activity kits have everything needed to do, like painting, word puzzles or craft projects. If weather allows they will be allowed to take small numbers on outing opportunities on the Center's new bus.

The Season After Epiphany

Sunday, March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent

Introduction

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

Readings and Psalm

Exodus 20:1-17

The commandments are given at Sinai

Psalm 19

The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Christ crucified, the wisdom of God

John 2:13-22

The cleansing of the temple

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Third Sunday in

Lent

Sunday, March 14
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Introduction

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

Readings and Psalm

Numbers 21:4-9

The lifting up of the serpent

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

Ephesians 2:1-10

Saved by grace through faith for good works

John 3:14-21

The lifting up of the Son of Man

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Fourth Sunday in

Lent

Find the Bible online at bible.oremus.org

**Sunday, March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Introduction

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

Readings and Psalms

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant written on the heart

Psalms 51:1-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

Psalms 119:9-16 (alternate)

I treasure your promise in my heart. (Ps. 119:11)

Hebrews 5:5-10

Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation

John 12:20-33

The grain of wheat dying in the earth

Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Fifth Sunday in



**Sunday, March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday**

Introduction

This week, the center of the church’s year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark’s gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ’s suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God’s salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God’s astonishing work.

Procession with Palms

Mark 11:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

John 12:12-16 (alternate)

Jesus enters Jerusalem

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord submits to suffering

Psalms 31:9-16

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

Philippians 2:5-11

Humbled to the point of death on a cross

Mark 14:1-15:47

The passion of the Lord

Mark 15:1-39 (alternate)

The passion of the Lord

Prayer of the Day (Alternate)

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Find the Bible online at bible.oremus.org

**Thursday, April 1, 2021
Maundy Thursday**

Introduction

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Readings and Psalm

[Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14](#)

The passover of the Lord

[Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19](#)

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. (Ps. 116:13)

[1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)

Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

[John 13:1-17, 31b-35](#)

The service of Christ: footwashing and meal

Prayer of the Day (Alternate)

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Maundy Thursday

**Friday, April 2
Good Friday**

Introduction

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 52:13-53:12](#)

The suffering servant

[Psalm 22](#)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Ps. 22:1)

[Hebrews 10:16-25](#)

The way to God is opened by Jesus' death

[Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9](#) (alternate)

Jesus is our merciful high priest

[John 18:1-19:42](#)

The passion and death of Christ

Prayer of the Day (Alternate)

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Good Friday