



March 8, 2020
Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colorado
Rooted in Grace + Reaching out in Christ's Love

Welcome to Grace!



We are glad you are with us this morning. Our liturgy is printed in this worship folder. Visitors, please fill out a pew card letting us know your name and any other information you wish to share; it will help us know how we can serve you better.

In response to Christ's boundless love for all, members of Grace share that love by inviting all – regardless of ethnicity or race, educational or religious background, economic, physical, mental or social condition, gender identity or sexual orientation – to come and participate in the life of Grace.

PARTICIPATING MINISTERS IN THE WORK OF GRACE

Presiding Minister	Stephanie Kopsch
Assisting Minister	Anne Peterson
Choir Director	Michael Hoffman
Organist	Boyd Hamilton
Lead Singers	K. Kotcherguina, M.English, S. Schmidt, M. Hoffman
Lector	Nan Schwiesow
Ushers	Jeannie & Tom Lawson
Altar Guild	Doris Niesen
Nursery Attendant	Moira Matheson
Financial Counters	Roxana Bartlett & Greg Niesen
Audio	Ron Schwiesow
Office Administrator	Amy Stewart McIntosh
Grounds Cleanup	David Bartlett

Lessons and propers for this day are reprinted from Words for Worship 2019, Year C © 2018 Augsburg Fortress.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1001 13th Street, Boulder CO 80302 Phone 303.442.1883 Fax 303.442.4403

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**www.graceboulder.org | office@graceboulder.org
Pastor email: StephanieTKopsch@q.com**

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

GATHERING

MUSICAL INVITATION TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.
We have wandered from your resurrection life.
We have strayed from your love for all people.
Turn us back to you, O God.
Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

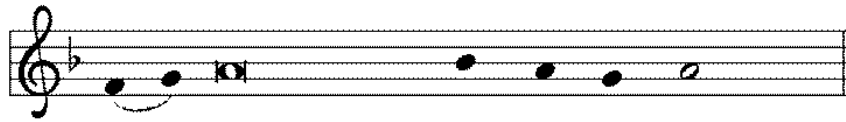
Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" ELW 767

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

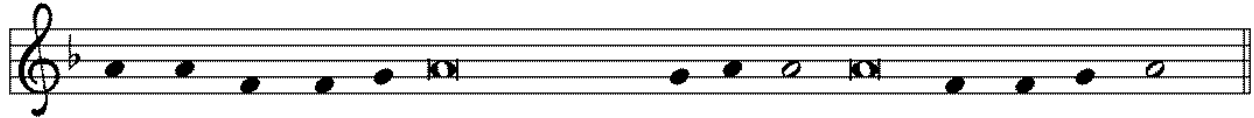
KYRIE



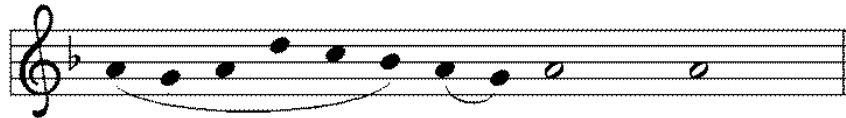
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



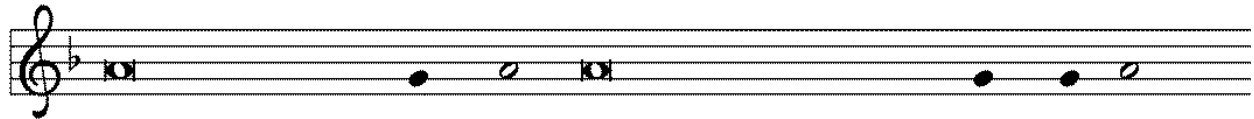
Lord, have mer - cy.



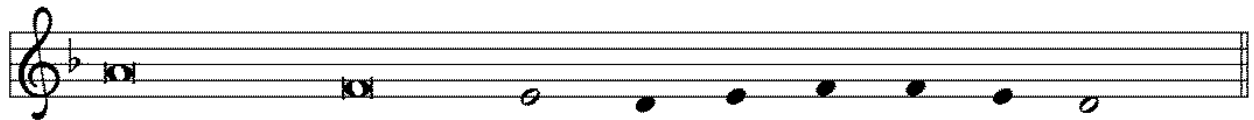
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



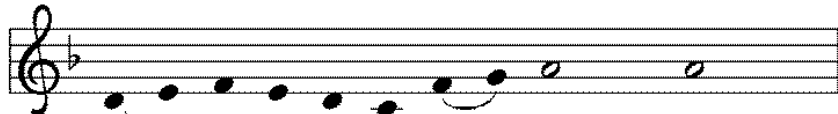
Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



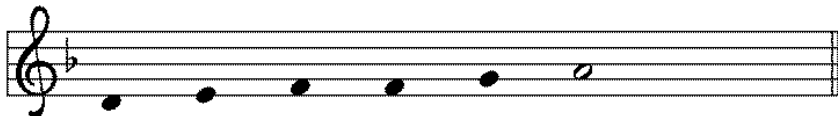
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



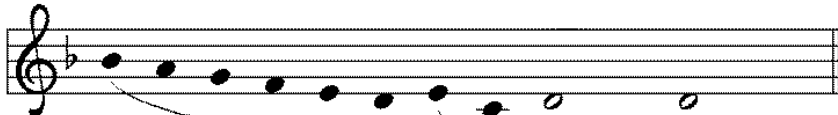
Lord, have mer - cy.



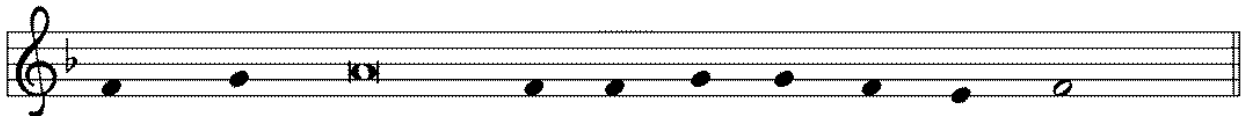
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



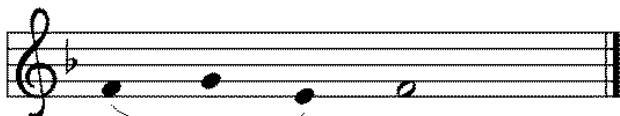
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

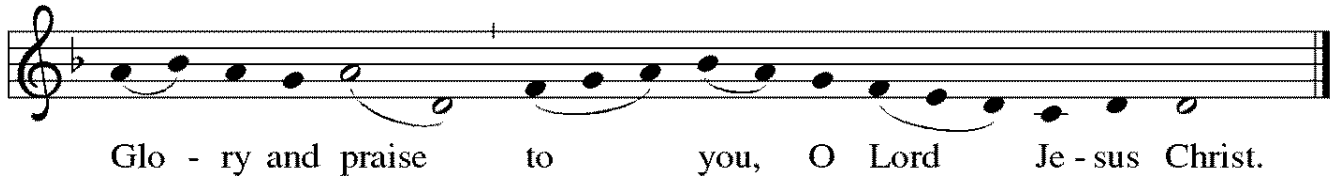
¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Due to the length of the gospel reading, please remain seated.)



GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the

serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Seed in Earth That is Dying”

ELW 330

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

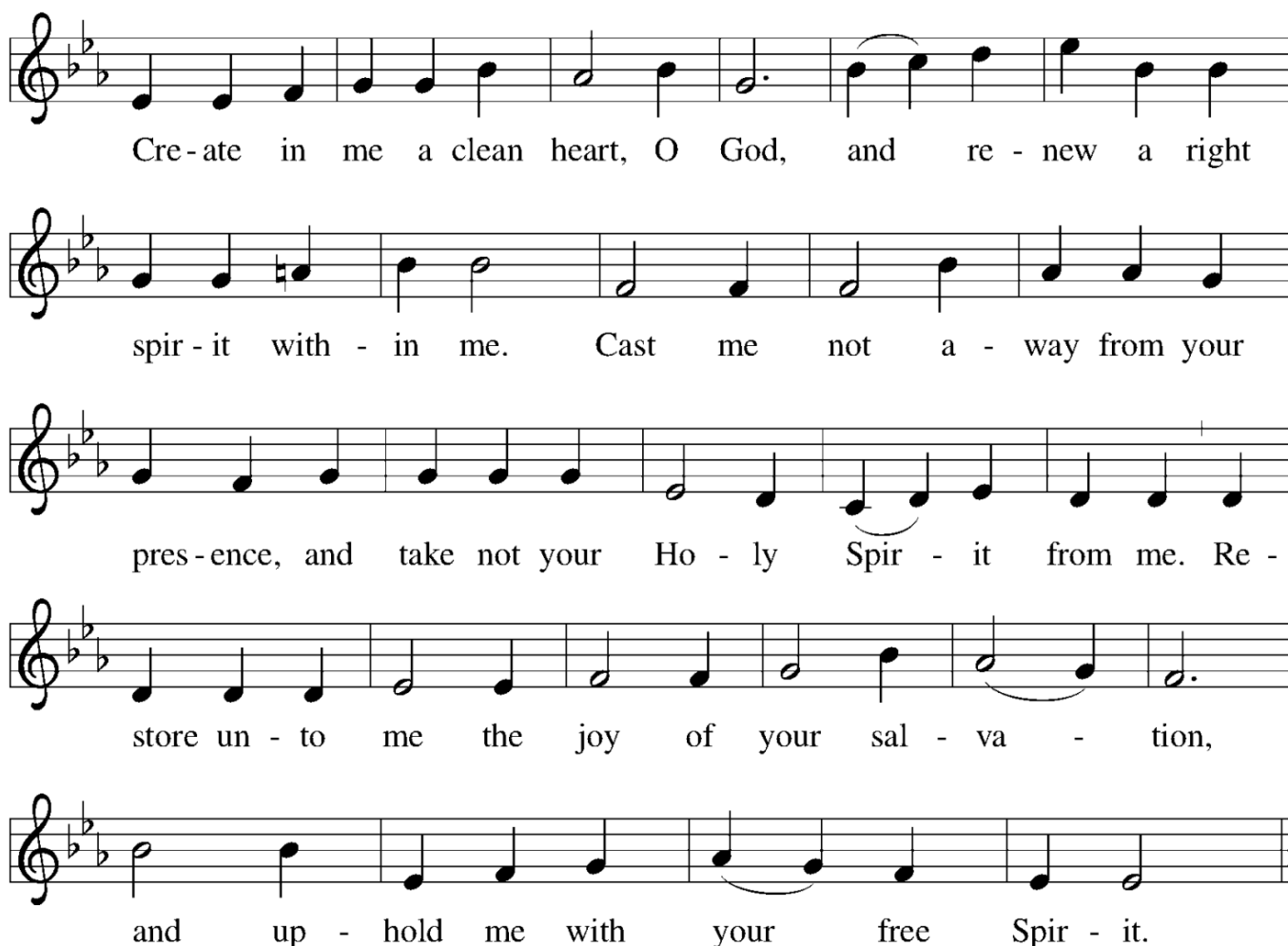
OFFERING

“I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes”

Ernest Walker

OFFERTORY

“Create In Me” ELW 188

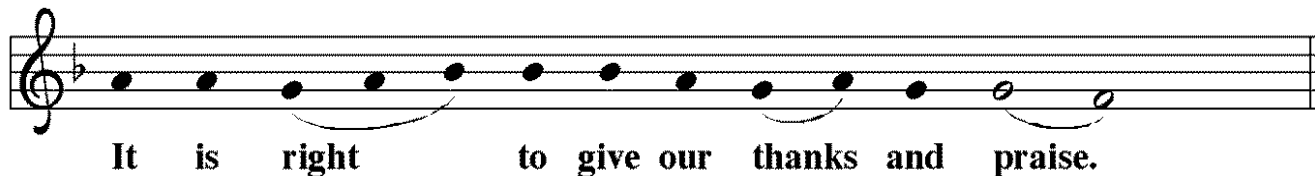
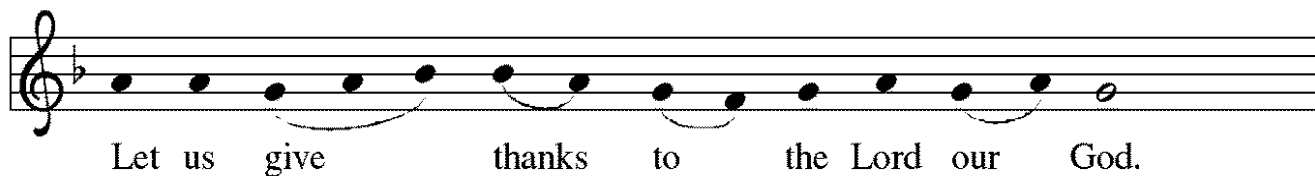


Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy and generous host,
you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

O God most mighty,
 O God most merciful,
 O God our rock and our salvation...

... In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**
 Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**
 Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself...

...Grant us such life,
the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

And together, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray:

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 bread is broken. The wine is poured.
Receive what you are, become what you receive.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

This is the table of God. We invite all who are hungry for God's presence in their lives to come forward to receive this gift of mercy and forgiveness at the table. Those who do not desire to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. The usher will direct you forward. You may drink from the chalice or dip the wafer into the wine.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

SENDING

PRAYER

We thank you, living God,
for the body and blood of your Son,
which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike.
As Christ has loved us in this feast,
so send us to love Christ in our neighbors.
In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God,
speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
✠ bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

ELW 324

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

POSLUDE

Scripture Readings Next Sunday

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42



GRACE NOTES
a guide to parish life at Grace

March 8, 2020

We pray for *those who are ill*: Tony Stahl (moved to Memory Care), Catherine Tietjen (family friend of the Lawsons), Allan Wolfe, Jacquie Poe (friend of the Stahls), Arline Fernandez (friend of the Gambles), Barry Miller (friends of the Gambles); **those undergoing treatment**: Cindy Edwards (friend of Anne Peterson undergoing surgery Monday, March 9), Diana Anderson (former Grace member recovering from surgery), Patrick Fallin (friend of Hiroko Akima), Richard Raedeke (former Grace member), Beaudin Larabee (friend of the Zabels), Coral Fay Mosbø (sister of Karen O'Loughlin), Paul Herzegh (friend of the Zabels), Elizabeth Farr, Deena Steward (daughter-in-law of the Stewards), Jan Adams (friend of the Stahls), Cheryl Fenske Prudic (niece of the Stewards), Mary Dorsett (former member of Grace); **hope and healing**: Mary Zabel (mourning the loss of her sister Dorothy Boatwright); Olghita Tafoya (located at Morning Star now); Ray Haux (former Grace member now in Hospice care), Mieko Akima, Elizabeth Izant (wife of Pastor Kent Mueller in the Office of the Bishop, now in palliative care), Myrna Montgomery (grandmother of LCM student Arin Moriarty), Mark Woods (friend of Deb Valerio), Ruth VanderMinden, Pamela Kast (sister-in-law of Patty's sister), Rick Beckman (brother of Kim).

The designated offering for March is: Himalayan Development Foundation.

The Himalayan Development Foundation is a local entity based in Superior and founded and led by Mr. Karma Sherpa. The Foundation takes on projects that have meaningful impact, measurable results, and (as much as possible) no administrative costs. In November 2018, Marci Roschke participated in the Medical Mission in Taksindu. She continues to work as a volunteer and seeks to advance the scope of the Foundation. Marci will lead the Adult Forum on March 15th. Please join her to learn more about the important work that the Himalayan Development Foundation is doing and the measurable impact its projects are having on people's lives.

Thanks to the Grace Foundation, all gifts through our designated offerings will be matched dollar for dollar in 2020, up to \$2,000/month. Please make your check to “Grace Lutheran Church” and add “PiM: Himalayan Development Foundation” to the memo line.

Rooted in Grace

Flu precaution practices are in effect. This means a CHANGE in COMMUNION and EXCHANGE OF PEACE practices. We are still working out the details, so please listen for instructions this morning.

Our **Young Adult Global Mission (YAGM)** volunteer Michelle in Mexico encourages us to consider as a congregation sourcing our coffee for from Café Just (www.justcoffee.com), a co-op of Mexican coffee farmers who are helping reduce the need for Mexican farmers to flee their homes to escape poverty by allowing them to continue living in their communities. The coffee at today's fellowship was a gift from Michelle from **Café Justo**. More information about Café Justo can be found in the weekly Grace eNotes and on the bulletin board outside the Pastor's study.

The **Tuesday Book Group** meets each week from 11:45 am-12:45 pm and is reading "*The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*" by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. They have completed the chapters on Sunday and Monday Please read the chapter entitled "Tuesday" for the upcoming meeting on March 10. Everyone is welcome!

Lectionary Bible Study with Pastor Stephanie continues on Wednesday, March 11 at 10:30 am. The study focuses on the lectionary texts for the next Sunday's worship, taking a deeper dive than is possible within the constraints of the service. Join us for spirited discussion and fellowship time!

On Sunday mornings at 8:45 am **Adult Forum** continues with Pastor Stephanie as she concludes *The Jesus Fatwah*, a series about Loving Your Muslim Neighbor.

Reaching Out in Christ's Love

Thank you for your donations of blank greeting cards for the inmates of **New Beginnings**. Your cards allow the women to communicate with loved ones.

Remember **Harvest of Hope** food pantry when you shop for groceries this week. Our donations make a difference for those who struggle to find food each week.

If you would like to help victims of Monday's tornadoes in Tennessee, **Lutheran Disaster Response** has established a fund for Nashville. Please add "Tennessee Disaster Relief" to the memo line on your check.

Lent at Grace



On the five Wednesdays in **Lent**, we will gather for Evening Prayer at 6:45 p.m., preceded by a light supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. The Evening Prayer services will focus on the Signs of Life in the Church: Light, Water, Food, Shelter, and Community.

This coming Wednesday, the second **Evening Prayer Service** in the series, we will reflect on Water and its relationship to Baptism. Baptism is learning how to float. Baptism is a sacrament of surrender, the sacramental act of letting go of fear and control, making friends with the unknown, and beginning to trust that God will sustain you, even in the midst of chaos and death.

Prior to our Evening Prayer Service, a light **Lenten Supper** is hosted by a Grace Shepherding Group at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, March 11 - Supper hosted by Still Waters

Wednesday, March 18 - Supper hosted by Voyagers

Wednesday, March 25 - Supper hosted by Eastern Stars

Wednesday, April 1 - Supper hosted by Joyful Noise

We hope you will join us!

This Week at Grace

+++++

Sunday, March 8 (Daylight Savings Time Begins; Spring Ahead!)

8:45 am Adult Forum, Fellowship Hall

10 am Worship followed by Fellowship, Sanctuary/Narthex

7:30 pm CU Student Recital, Sanctuary (Renee Hemsing Patten, Violin and Harpsichord)

7-9 pm Romanian Dancers

Monday, March 9

10 am-3 pm Office Administrator Hours, Office

10-11:30 am Music Lesson, Sanctuary

7-8 pm NAR-Anon Meeting, Music Room (Mark)

7-8 pm NA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

7-9 pm Harmonia Practice, Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 10

11:45 am-12:45 pm Grace Book Group, Library

6:00-7:45 pm Bread & Belonging @ St. Aidan's

7-8 pm HA Meeting, Music Room (Mark)

Wednesday, March 11

10 am-3 pm Office Administrator Hours, Office

10:30-11:30 am Lectionary Bible Study with Pr. Stephanie, Library

3-4 pm Music Lesson, Music Room (Mark)

6:00 pm Lenten Supper, Fellowship Hall

6:45 pm Lenten Devotions, Sanctuary

7:30-9 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 12

9 am-12 pm LWR Quilting Group, Sewing Rooms (Luke+John)

10 am-3 pm Office Administrator Hours, Office

1-5 pm CU Student Rehearsal, Sanctuary

3:30-6 pm Music Lessons, Music Room (Mark)

4-7 pm Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity Pinning Ceremony, Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 13

5:30-7:30 pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

9:30-11:30 pm HA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 14

9 am-12 pm Organ Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 15

8:45 am Adult Forum, Fellowship Hall

10 am Worship followed by Fellowship, Sanctuary/Narthex

11:30 am Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall

7-9 pm Romanian Dancers