



March 22, 2020
Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colorado
Rooted in Grace + Reaching out in Christ's Love

Welcome to Grace!

+

We are glad you are joining us online this morning. Our liturgy is printed in this worship folder so that you can follow along during the live stream [via Zoom](#) or when watching the [youtube video](#) afterward.

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
Pianist	Josh DeVane
Choir Director	Michael Hoffman
<i>Soprano</i>	Ekaterina Kotcherguina
<i>Alto</i>	Katherine DeVane
<i>Tenor</i>	Michael Hoffman
<i>Bass</i>	Sebastian Schmidt
Audio & Video	Ron Schwiesow
Office Administrator	Amy Stewart McIntosh

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

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 HYMN "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" ELW 769

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

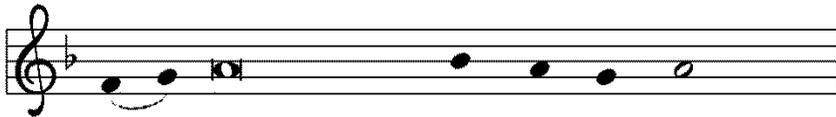
side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

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.**

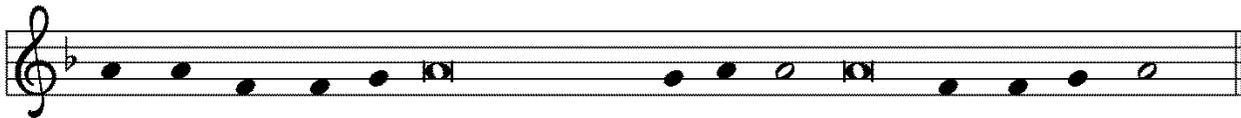
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



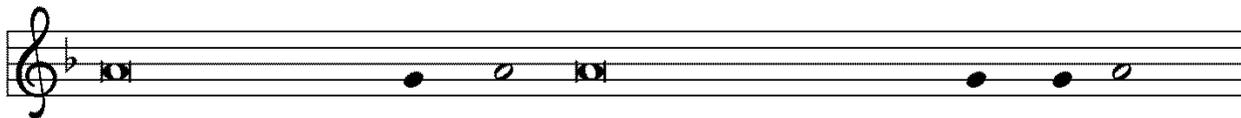
Lord, have mer - cy.



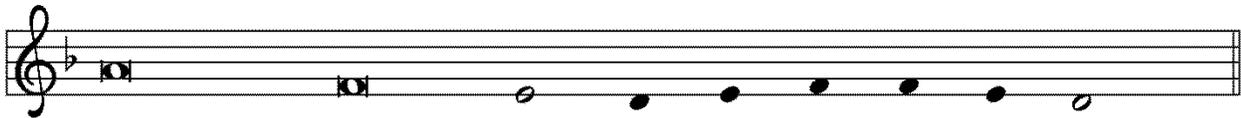
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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:

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

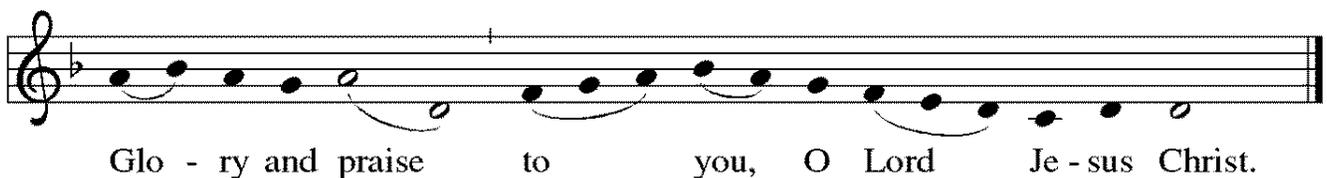
“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that

anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Stephanie Kopsch

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace”

ELW 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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.

OFFERING

ANTHEM

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Robert Nance

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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

SENDING

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

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW 768

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday, March 29

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45



GRACE NOTES
a guide to parish life at Grace

March 22, 2020

We pray for *those who are ill*: Catherine Tietjen (family friend of the Lawsons), Allan Wolfe, Jacquie Poe (friend of the Stahls); *those undergoing treatment*: John Gamble, Diana Anderson (former Grace member), Patrick Fallin (friend of Hiroko Akima), Richard Raedeke (former Grace member), 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*: Tony Stahl (now in Hospice Care), the family of Olghita Tafoya (mourning her death Thursday, March 12), the family of Elizabeth Izant (mourning her death Wednesday, March 11), Cathy Edwards (friend of Anne Peterson recovering from surgery), Barry Miller (friend of the Gambles now in Hospice Care), Arline Fernandez (friend of the Gambles now in Hospice Care); Rodney McLenon (friend of the Zabels), Beaudin Larabee (friend of the Zabels), Ray Haux (former Grace member now in Hospice care), Mieko Akima, 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 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 planned to lead the Adult Forum on March 15th. We hope to reschedule this, or make available her presentation remotely.

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.

Worship at Grace in the Time of the Novel Corona Virus

We have **made the decision at Grace** to put the needs of the larger community first in helping slow the spread of the novel corona virus by **ceasing all building usage**, including worship services, social gatherings, rehearsals, recitals, and all other usage until further notice.

Thankfully, we at Grace **have worked creatively together** to facilitate remote ways of gathering, both in small discussion groups and in large worship settings, using the internet-based video conferencing platform [Zoom](#). As [Bishop Gonia exclaims](#), "There is reason to rejoice and be glad!"

Please [contact Amy in the office](#) if you need help accessing these remote Grace Zoom opportunities. We aim to include everyone that wishes to join in, and we have several ways to accomplish this.

We also have updated the Grace website (<https://graceboulder.org>) to host videos and .pdf versions of our bulletins, in addition to the audio of sermons that we have provided in the past. Please visit our [Grace Boulder Homepage](#) and our [Worship Services page](#) to explore what improvements we have made.

We do, though, have a few favors to ask of you:

- If you absolutely have to come to the office/church building, **please be respectful of our space**. Pastor's office is large enough that you can sit at the table while she is behind her desk. If you need to talk to Amy, please do not enter her office, but stay right at the door so she can have the required six feet of space.
- If you need help with the computer setup, or with connecting with Zoom, we can probably help you by phone. **Please don't come to the office** to ask these questions. We cannot be physically so close to each other that you can share a computer screen with us, or a keyboard.
- This does not apply when you come to the church to participate in a Zoom meeting. In that case, we will set up a **separate laptop for you in your own room** so you are not in direct contact with us.

- Those of us who are in the office every day are very careful not to violate the space deemed safe by the experts. **We plead with you to do the same with us.**

Remember that, while church is a practice of community, faith is the practice of individuals. The mark of our Baptism is with us wherever we are, in community or alone. Know yourself held by God's Grace during this time and always.

Rooted in Grace

Our thoughts and prayers are with the **Tafoya Family** as they mourn the death of Olghita. Olghita died on Thursday, March 12.

The Tuesday Book Group is reading *"The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem"* by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. They hope to finish by Holy Week. They have completed the chapters on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Please read the chapter entitled "Thursday" for the upcoming meeting on March 24 from 11:45 am-12:45 pm [via Zoom](#). If you need help with Zoom, [please contact Amy](#) in the Grace office.

Lectionary Bible Study with Pastor Stephanie continues on Wednesday, March 25 at 10:30 am [via Zoom](#). 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! If you need help with Zoom, [please contact Amy](#) in the Grace office.

Adult Forum is postponed for now, as the presentations require quite a bit of technology to share the content. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Lent at Grace



On the five Wednesdays in Lent, [we gather remotely via Zoom](#) for **Evening Prayer** at 7:00 pm. The Evening Prayer Services focus on the [Signs of Life in the Church](#): Light, Water, Food, Shelter, and Community. Earlier this week, on March 18 at the third Evening Prayer Service in the series, we reflected on [Food](#). You can watch the March 18th Service on [Grace's youtube channel](#) if you missed it and [follow along with an electronic \(.pdf\) Bulletin](#).

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.

This Week at Grace

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Sunday, March 22

10 am Worship, [via Zoom](#)

Monday, March 23

10 am-3 pm Administrator Hours, Office

Tuesday, March 24

11:45 am-12:45 pm Grace Book Group, [via Zoom](#)

Wednesday, March 25

10 am-3 pm Office Administrator Hours, Office

10:30-11:30 am Bible Study, [via Zoom](#)

6:45 pm Lenten Devotions, [via Zoom](#)

Thursday, March 26

10 am-3 pm Office Administrator Hours, remotely

Friday, March 27

Nothing scheduled

Saturday, March 28

Nothing scheduled

Sunday, March 29

10 am Worship, [via Zoom](#)