

## Welcome to Worship

*Our Mission: To boldly live out our faith in Jesus  
through worship, fellowship, and service to God  
and our neighbor, here and around the world.*

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**Sunday, April 6, 2025 - 8:30 AM**



### Grace Lutheran Pastors and Staff

**Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb:** Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Cole McCormick:** Associate Pastor  
**Nicole Kolbe:** Office Administrator

**Brad Anderson:** Maintenance  
**Jane Reiman:** Finance Director  
**Amber Hansen:** Open Door Meal Coordinator

~ 300 S. Grant Street, Fairmont, MN 56031 ~ [www.gracelutheranchurch.org](http://www.gracelutheranchurch.org) ~ 507-238-4418 ~

*Please Note: Worship services are broadcast on local TV and online. Being in the Sanctuary implies consent to be on camera.  
If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit in the back rows or balcony. Communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

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**Prelude and Bell Ringing**

*Elegy*  
by Dmitri Shostakovich

**Violins:**  
Katie and Andrew Hoaglund

**Welcome and Offering of Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Welcome to Worship!

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

*Change My Heart, O God*

Chancel Choir

**Confession & Forgiveness**

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

All: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

All: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

#858

**Greeting**

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

All: **And also with you.**

**Kyrie**

p. 147

**Hymn of Praise***Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*  
v. 1-3 & Lent 5

#334

**Prayer of the Day**

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all 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.

**First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
 who makes a way in the sea,  
 a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
 army and warrior;  
 they lie down; they cannot rise;  
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things  
 or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
 now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
 I will make a way in the wilderness  
 and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
 the jackals and the ostriches,  
 for I give water in the wilderness,  
 rivers in the desert,  
 to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
 so that they might declare my praise.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**p.151b**

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of John. **All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel Reading: John 12:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Cole McCormick

**Hymn of the Day***In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

#324

**Apostles Creed**

**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 the Church**

P: God in your mercy...

C: ... receive our prayer.

**Loaves and Fishes Offering**

*Youth are invited to walk forward and place their offering into the basket. Just like the little boy who gave his 2 fish and 5 loaves to Jesus, who multiplied them to feed thousands, the youth offering will go to The Grace Food Pantry. Adults are welcome to give a child an offering to bring up too.*

**Offering**

***Behold The Lamb Of God*  
by Bob Dufford**

**Chancel Choir**

**Offering Hymn***Create in Me a Clean Heart*

#186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew and right spirit within me.  
 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

**Offering Prayer**

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Holy Communion****Great Thanksgiving (sung)**

p.152

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung in unison)**

p.153

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

*Children of all ages may receive communion or a blessing. They are also invited to take an instrument to praise God during the sending song. All are welcome at Christ's table.*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
 we await his coming in glory.  
 Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Lamb of God****p.154**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Communion Hymn***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***#803****Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Blessing**

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn***Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross***#335****Sending**

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**