

2024

# Welcome to Worship



Grace Lutheran Church  
A congregation of the ELCA  
2/11/2024

## **PRESERVICE MUSIC**

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Quiet to Prepare for Worship – Ringing of our Bell**

## **CHOIR SINGING**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**C: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C: **Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN: #838 Beautiful Savior**

## **GREETING**

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

C: **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (Read in unison)**

**C: Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **READINGS**

### **2 Kings 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

## **Psalm 50:1-6 (Read responsively)**

- <sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- <sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.**
- <sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.
- <sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.**
- <sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”
- <sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,  
for it is God who is judge.**

## **2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **CHOIR SINGING**

### **Mark 9:2-9**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON** Deacon Stephanie Engel

**HYMN OF THE DAY: #318 Alleluia, Song of Gladness**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: 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, and 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

### **PEACE**

*Please share a sign of peace with those around in whatever way you are most comfortable.*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

*We will collect the offering at this time. The children will also be collecting coins at this time for the Childrens' ministries or ELCA water project. You*

*may send your giving to the church office or give through the link to our Vanco site that is easy to find on our website: [gracelutheranelroy.com](http://gracelutheranelroy.com).*

P: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*Communion at Grace Lutheran is open to all who believe in Jesus our Lord.*

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.**

P: 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. 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 by speaking:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** (*In the night in which he was betrayed . . .*)

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into**

**temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

### **SHARING THE MEAL**

### **COMMUNION HYMNS: #715 Christ Be Our Light**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who  
dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN: #866 We Are Marching in the Light of God**

**Quiet pause for the ringing of our bell**

### **BENEDICTION**

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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**Organist:** Heather Vlasak

**Synod Authorized Minister:** Kris Stauffacher

**Custodian:** Dave Clark and crew



**Come Grow  
in Grace**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Flower Sign-Up sheet is located in the Narthex on the bulletin board.**

**USHERS NEEDED** Now that we are passing the plates to receive the offering, additional ushers are needed. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex.

**SUPER BOWL SUB SANDWICHES!** If you ordered a sub, please pick it up downstairs after worship. Thank you for your support!

**SIGN UP FOR LENT SOUP SUPPERS IS LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.** Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>. A worship service with imposition of ashes will take place at 6:30 pm. Soup Suppers will begin on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Supper at 5:30 pm. Worship at 6:30 pm.

**GRACE IS GOING BOWLING** Sign up to bowl with us on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Hooterbowl in Hustler. Deadline to sign up is February 18th. See you there!

**A PANCAKE APPRECIATION BREAKFAST** will be hosted by the Royall FFA on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8 am-12 noon at the Royall High School Cafeteria. Free will donation will be received for the meal, which includes pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice, and milk. OR bring two non-perishable food items (per person) for the food party and eat for free! Bring the whole family and support your local FFA Chapter! Afterwards, join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **OLD-FASHIONED EUCHRE PARTY**, beginning at 1:00 pm in the high school cafeteria. Come enjoy an afternoon of card playing and socializing. Prizes will be given. There is no charge for the card party.

**WE PRAY FOR:** Holly Hinzpeter, Kandy Hagen, Suzanne Soltvedt, John Thompson, Dawn Ertel, Dorothy Klipstein, Ethel Mae Baldwin, John Miller, Hunter Clark, Hank Benthauser, Dean Burmaster, Bob Brod, David Denter, Ed Miller, Adda DeMarco, Lynne Rudy, Henry Schmid, Megan Braund, Helen Milne, Sam Loizzo, and Joy Bever