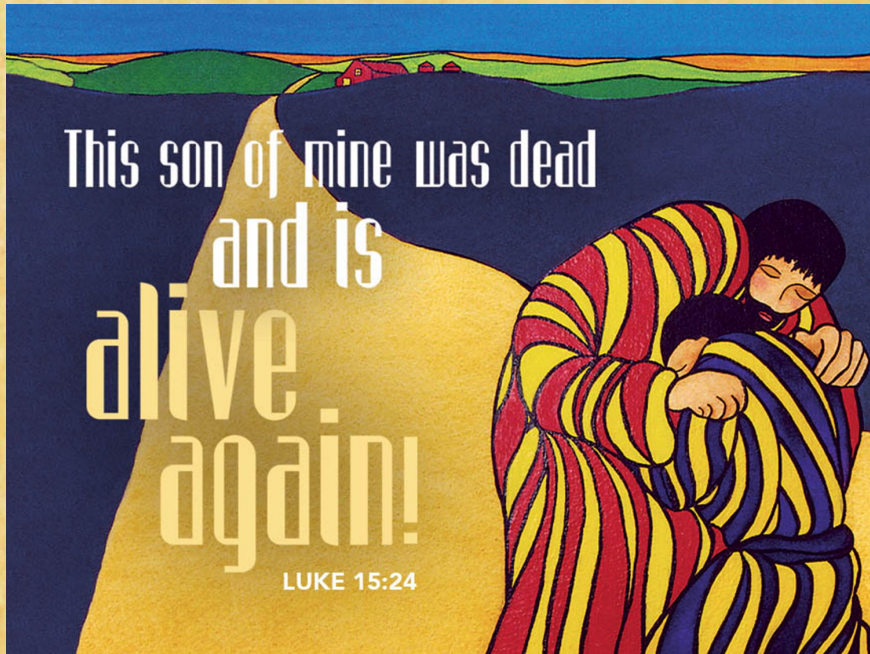


Lent 4

March 27, 2022



Grace Lutheran Church

8:00 am: Spoken Service & 10:15 am: Liturgical Service

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright

Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner

Church Secretaries: Michelle Allen & Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

Welcome

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here whether you are here to worship with us as a first time visitor, friend, neighbor, or lifelong member. If you have any questions, concerns, or need pastoral care, Pastor Althea would love to talk with you. Feel free to speak with her after worship or contact her by email at: pastoralthea3@gmail.com or by phone 484-345-0399.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to **belong** to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who **believe** as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to **become** caring servants of God in the world.

Serving in Worship Today

Worship Assistant: Shirley Blankenship

Altar Guild: Brenda Traa

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace!

If you notice someone who is missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea via phone, Facebook, or email or contact our secretary in the office to add people who are on our hearts each week and include our ongoing concerns.

Members of Grace: Betty N., John N., Ruth T., Debbie K., Marlene D., Joyce B.

Family and friends: Donna, Gage, Donna, Virginia, Carol (*Pastor Althea*); Payton (*Joyce Bianco*), Deb, Glen, Marilyn, Peggy, Jeanne (*Bowdens*); Baby Stella (*Clare Brick*); Annmarie, Kathy (*Marlene Doer*); Phyllis, Shawn (*Carol Fry*); Jody (*Grings*); Michael Ann, Rod (*June Jordan*); Shirley & Carl (*Debbie Kleuser*); Bob (*Dale Kredatus*); Jim, Vicki, (*Meg LaSpina*), Bernadette, Lou; Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, (*Renee Pugliese*); Catherine and Sal (*Corrine Rhodes*); Karen (*Sue Robinson*); Dotte Currie, (*Deborah Walker*), Wisdom Family (*Welfields*); Eileen, Marie, Beverlee, Darlene

Those Serving Our Country: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Cainan Johnson, USAF

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Rahme, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

ELW Setting 4

Congregation responses in bold print.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

I Call to the Lord Jesus Christ

By J.S. Bach
Edited by L.N. Porter

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: As we come before God this Lent, let us pray together.

Almighty God, you know us from before we are born.

You never leave our side.

You know our joy and our sadness.

You know our outward successes and our innermost failings.

We come before you now wanting to worship you.

Forgive us when we stray and bring us closer to your Spirit once again. **Amen.**

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

Pastor: God of mercy,

We confess that we have not always stayed in close relationship with you, God.

We often let worry and fear consume us.

We do not always follow your call for us.

We do not always treat our neighbors with love.

For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may return to you again and glorify your holy name. Amen.

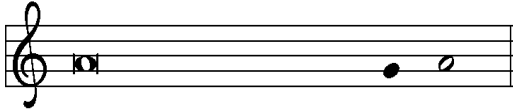
Pastor: God is merciful and just. Christ suffered, was crucified, and died for us and for all our sins. As a minister of the church of Christ, I declare to you that God forgives all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Return to the Lord your God with a new spirit, ready to accept God's gift of grace. **Amen.**

APOSTOLIC 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

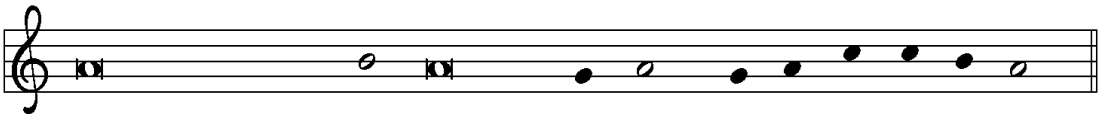
ELW page 147



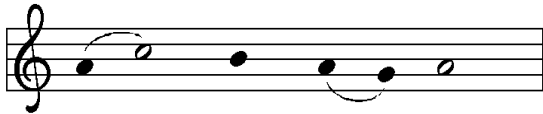
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



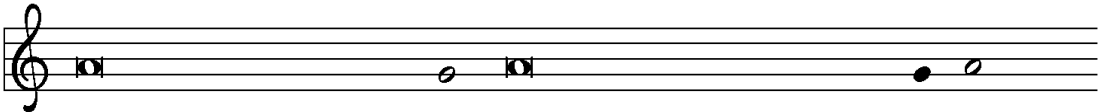
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



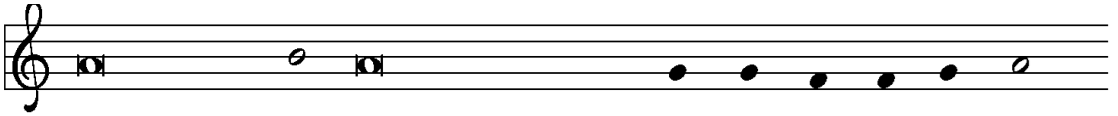
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



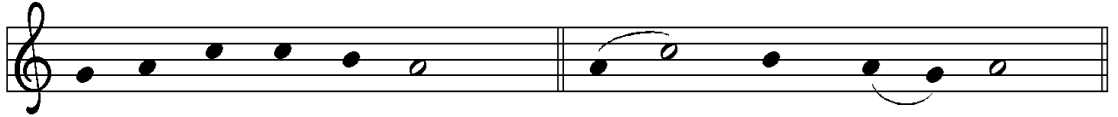
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer 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

Pastor: Let us pray together.... **God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of 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.**

Please be seated



Preparing for Easter

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of our Lord. **Thanks be to God**



PSALM: Psalm 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions¹ are forgiven, / and whose sin is¹ put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD im-¹putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there¹ is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with-¹ered away, / because of my groaning¹ all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the¹ heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-¹ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”

Then you forgave me the guilt¹ of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they¹ shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts¹ of deliverance.

⁸**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that¹ you should go;
I will guide you¹ with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will¹ not stay near you.”

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust¹ in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are¹ true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, your God

ELW page 151



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the fifteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’

And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen!

For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Rev. Althea Albright

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

HYMN OF THE DAY

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

ELW # 608

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

WEEKLY OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies’ Sake By Richard Farrant

Please stand as you are able

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Create in Me A Clean Heart

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

Pastor: Let us pray. Sovereign God,

We rejoice that we are able to give back our blessings to you for your holy work. You have changed our lives forever with your mercy and grace. Give us opportunities to change the lives of others with your Gospel message. Bless our congregation, this community, and everything we give back to you for mission and ministry, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Drawn close to the heart of God this Lenten season, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Brief silence.

Leader: Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extraordinary mercy and welcome to all people. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world often consumed by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Leader: Almighty Creator, you make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal lands tainted by pollution, abuse, or misuse. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Leader: Lord God, many countries are divided. Reconcile nations that experience conflict. Be with peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Pastor: Great Healer, your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Grant wisdom to those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving especially those we name now... Refresh us and console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Pastor: Accept the prayers we bring to you, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

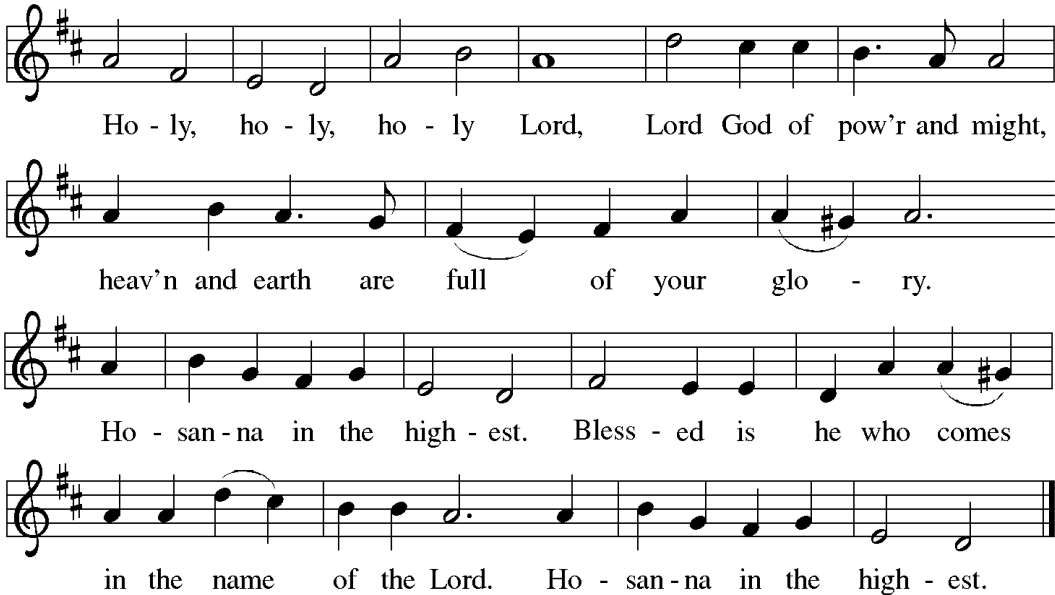
PREFACE

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 LORD

ELW page 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE 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.

On 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.

Together we celebrate this holy meal. May all praise and thanks be to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God invites us to this meal of food and drink for the journey.

Communion will be offered in two ways, continuous at the chancel step, and at the direction of Pastor after everyone has come forward (for those at home online and those who choose to remain seated).

Follow the direction of the ushers to come to the front or remain seated and after all have come forward, direction for the prefilled host and grape juice will be given.

COMMUNION HYMN**Lamb of God****ELW page 153**

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, grant us peace.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**IF YOU CHOOSE TO COME FORWARD:**

Follow the directions of Pastor and the Ushers.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN AT YOUR SEAT OR YOU ARE ONLINE:

Prepare your elements after all have come forward and wait for direction from Pastor

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After experiencing the love of Christ in this holy meal, may he continue to strengthen you and hold you close. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together... **Sustaining God, as you have been present with us at this table, form us and encourage us to share your life-giving word and grace with all people. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING *We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.*

SENDING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, we are living in difficult times. As we have worshiped with you this day, you have refreshed us with your Word and given us hope. Send us as witnesses of your Gospel message, that we may be light for the world, as we continue through this season of Lent. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor: May Almighty God bless you and keep you. May Christ's mercy and forgiveness remind you to go and sin no more. May the Spirit guide you and keep you safe from the evil in the world. And finally may God's love bring you comfort and † give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

What a Wondrous Love Is This
Verses 1 & 4, All; Verse 2, Women; Verse 3, Men

ELW #666

Please be seated for the postlude.

Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

POSTLUDE

Introduction and Recessional

By Gilbert M. Martin

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in the love of Christ and serve others with kindness! **Thanks be to God!**

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Daily Bible Reading for Lent

Week 1

**Lord God, by Your Word
Fill Me with a Spirit of
Repentance and Forgiveness**

Sunday	Psalm 51
Monday	Matthew 6:5-15
Tuesday	Matthew 18:21-35
Wednesday	Luke 15:11-32
Thursday	Ephesians 4:25—5:2
Friday	1 John 1:5-10
Saturday	Psalm 130

Week 2

**Lord God, by Your Word
Fill Me with a Spirit of
Hope and Trust**

Sunday	Genesis 12:1-9
Monday	Genesis 22:1-19
Tuesday	Isaiah 51:1-16
Wednesday	Luke 12:22-34
Thursday	Romans 4:13-25
Friday	Hebrews 6:13-20
Saturday	Psalm 62

Week 3

**Lord God, by Your Word
Fill Me with a Spirit of
Gratitude and Thanksgiving**

Sunday	Luke 17:11-19
Monday	2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:6-20
Wednesday	Philippians 4:1-9
Thursday	Colossians 3:1-17
Friday	1 Chronicles 16:7-36
Saturday	Psalm 103

Week 4

**Lord God, by Your Word
Fill Me with a Spirit of
Love and Servanthood**

Sunday	Matthew 23:1-12
Monday	Mark 10:35-45
Tuesday	John 15:1-17
Wednesday	Romans 12:9-21
Thursday	Romans 13:8-14
Friday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Saturday	1 John 4:7-21

Week 5

**Lord God, by Your Word
Fill Me with a Spirit of
Discipleship and Commitment**

Sunday	Luke 5:1-11
Monday	Luke 9:22-27
Tuesday	Matthew 10:16-33
Wednesday	Matthew 10:34-42
Thursday	John 15:18-27
Friday	2 Timothy 2:1-13
Saturday	2 Timothy 3:10-17

Week 6

**Lord God, by Your Word
Fill Me with a Spirit of
Obedience and Humility**

Sunday	John 13:1-20
Monday	Philippians 2:1-11
Tuesday	Psalm 22
Wednesday	Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Thursday	Luke 22:39-71
Friday	Luke 23:1-56
Saturday	Hebrews 4:14—5:10

16

Events This Week - March 27 - April 3, 2022

Sunday 3/27 **LENT 4**

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge
 New Members Installation
8:45 am - Adult Sunday School
10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service
 Holy Communion
 Grace Friends Sunday School
4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm - Catechism Class @ Grace

Monday 3/28

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry
10:00 am Clergy Bible Study
7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall

Tuesday 3/29

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry
2:00 pm Moving with Grace Walking
Together
6:30 pm - NA Meeting—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday 3/30

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry
11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Duplicate Bridge
7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

Thursday 3/31

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry
5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm - Bread and Broth Supper
 Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm - Lenten Study
 Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge

Friday 4/1

10:30 am - Grace Stitchers
7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

Saturday 4/2

4:00 pm Moving with Grace Walking
Together
6:00-11:00 pm Private Event

Sunday 4/3 **LENT 5**

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge
8:45 am - Adult Sunday School
10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service
 Holy Communion
 Grace Friends Sunday School
3:30 pm - AA Meeting - Fellowship
Hall

