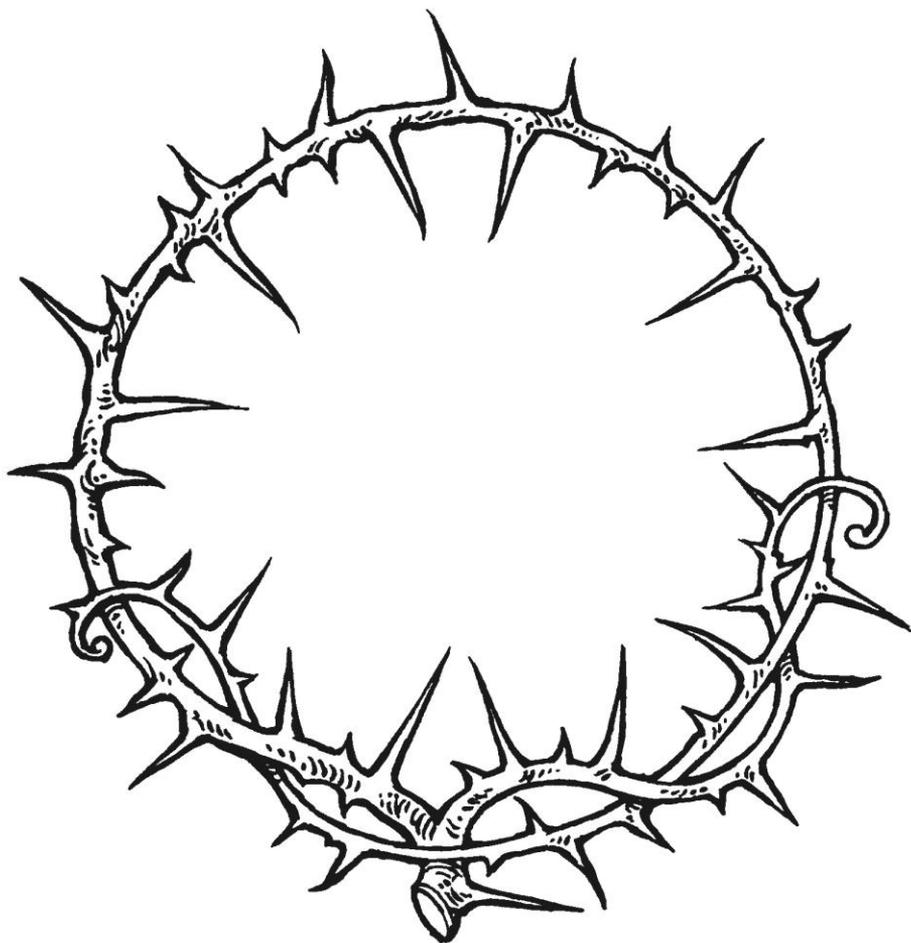


Second Wednesday in Lent

March 3, 2021



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

gracelutheranrialto.com

Pastor Bill Maggard

Pastor Daniel A. Holm

Second Wednesday in Lent Vespers

OPENING HYMN

The Will of God Is Always Best

758

- 1 The will of God is always best
 And shall be done forever;
And they who trust in Him are blest;
 He will forsake them never.
He helps indeed
 In time of need;
He chastens with forbearing,
 They who depend
On God, their friend,
 Shall not be left despairing.

- 2 God is my comfort and my trust,
 My hope and life abiding;
And to His counsel, wise and just,
 I yield, in Him confiding.
The very hairs,
 His Word declares,
Upon my head He numbers.
 By night and day
God is my stay;
 He never sleeps nor slumbers.

- 3 Lord, this I ask, O hear my plea,
 Deny me not this favor:
When Satan sorely troubles me,
 Then do not let me waver.
O guard me well,
 My fear dispel,
Fulfill Your faithful saying:

All who believe
By grace receive
An answer to their praying.

4 When life's brief course on earth is run
And I this world am leaving,
Grant me to say, "Your will be done,"
Your faithful Word believing.
My dearest Friend, I now commend
My soul into Your keeping;
From sin and hell,
And death as well,
By You the vict'ry reaping

Stand

O Lord, open my lips, Psalm 51:15
And my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
Make haste to help me, O Lord. Psalm 70:1

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

PSALM 111 - *responsively*

- 1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**
- 3 Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.
- 4 **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;**

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

⁶ **He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷ The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ **they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹ He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN *Our Father, Who from Heaven Above* 766

1 Our Father, who from heav'n above
 Bids all of us to live in love
As members of one family
 And pray to You in unity,
Teach us no thoughtless words to say
 But from our inmost hearts to pray.

2 Your name be hallowed, Help us Lord,
 In purity to keep Your Word,
That to the glory of Your name
 We walk before You free from blame.
Let no false teaching us pervert;
 All poor deluded souls convert.

- 3 Your kingdom come. Guard Your domain
And Your eternal righteous reign.
The Holy Ghost enrich our day
With gifts attendant on our way.
Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage;
Preserve Your Church from age to age.
- 4 Your gracious will on earth be done
As it is done before Your throne,
That patiently we may obey
Throughout our lives all that You say,
Curb flesh and blood and ev'ry ill
That sets itself against Your will
- 5 Give us this day our daily bread,
And let us all be clothed and fed
Save us from hardship, war, and strife;
In plague and famine, spare our life,
That we in honest peace may live,
To care and greed no entrance give.
- 6 Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,
That they may trouble us no more;
We, too, will gladly those forgive
Who hurt us by the way they live.
Help us in our community
To serve each other willingly.
- 7 Lead not into temptation Lord,
Where our grim foe and all his horde
Would vex our souls on ev'ry hand.
Help us resist, help us to stand
Firm in the faith, a mighty host,
Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.

8 From evil, Lord, deliver us;
The times and days are perilous.
Redeem us from eternal death,
And, when we yield our dying breath,
Console us, grant us calm release,
And take our souls to You in peace.

9 Amen, that is, so shall it be.
Make strong our faith in You, that we
May doubt not but with trust believe
That what we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Your name and at Your Word
We say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-13

- ¹ "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to Me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for He has glorified you.

- ⁶ “Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.
- ¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
- ¹¹ so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
- ¹² “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
- ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Second Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about Him, so that He got into

a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.
³ And He told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as He sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears,^[a] let him hear."

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

RESPONSORY - Lent

Psalm 51:14; 59:1; 141:8

Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

SERMON

Pastor Holm

Stand

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT – Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

My Soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior; for He has regarded the lowliness of His hand-maiden. For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

O Lord, hear my prayer.
And let my cry come to You.

COLLECTS

Eternal, omnipotent God, I give to You the greatest thanks because You created me when I was nothing. I thank You much more because You redeemed me when I was lost and condemned, caught in the jaws of hell. But You removed me by the blood of Your Son (Colossians 1:14). I was a slave to Satan. But by Your grace, You freed me from the dominion of the devil and placed me in the kingdom of Christ. I am entirely indebted to You because You formed me in my entirety. I am obliged to praise You with my tongue because You gave it to me (Psalm 51:15). My mouth is obliged to announce Your praise because it breathes the air and breath You provide. My heart is obliged to cling to You with continual love because You formed it. All my members are obliged to serve You quickly because, however many and great they are, You wondrously made them all.

If I am already indebted to You because You have made me, what can I possibly give back to You for my redemption from servitude and captivity to sin? You have rescued the lost sheep from the claws of the infernal wolf (John 10:28). You have freed the runaway slave from the prison of the devil. You have anxiously sought the lost coin (Luke 15:8). In Adam, I fell. You raised me up. In Adam, I was held captive by the chains of sin. You broke those chains. In Adam, I perished. You desired to save me again. Who am I, miserable worm, that You were so anxious for my redemption and desired to do so much for my salvation? If the parents of our race were utterly rejected by You after the fall, and they, together with all their descendants, were removed from the sight of Your glory and cast into the deepest hell, not one of us could complain of injustice. We receive what our deeds deserve. What else could we ask or expect from You, who created us in Your image and provided us with sufficient power to guard our innocence?

You showed Your incomprehensible and unspeakably great love toward us when You promised a Son, a Savior, to the first parents after the fall (Genesis 3:15). In the fullness of time, You sent this Savior to us. Through Him, You recall us from death to life, from sin to righteousness, from hell to heavenly glory. O Lover of all humanity, whose delight is in the children of men (Proverbs 8:31), who can offer worthy praise for this philanthropy? Moreover, who can conceive of it? These are the incomprehensible riches of Your goodness. This is the immeasurable treasure of Your kindness, which our impoverished understanding cannot grasp. The slaves were so valuable that for their redemption the Son was given up to death. The one hostile to You was so loved that You appointed the beloved Son to be my Redeemer. My soul is astounded as I reflect on this kindness. It is deeply moved and melts in love for You. (*from "Meditations on Divine Mercy" by Johann Gerhard, 62-64*) **Amen.**

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all god counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen.

Organist - *Gail James*

Elder – *Ron Pickinpaugh*