



March 30, 2025 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

As We Gather: The sermon series for the Sundays during Lent is entitled, "Words from the Upper Room". In his Gospel John devotes five chapters (John 13-17), almost a fourth of his Gospel, to giving us an account of what happened in that Upper Room as Jesus met with His disciples to celebrate the Passover for the last time. In this series, we will look at some of the words Jesus spoke to His disciples that night and see the timeless messages they have for us as Christ's followers 2,000 years later. Our Theme for today is: "Strength for Life".

Note that the structure of prayer in this service suggests a pattern which may well be followed in the private prayers of any individual. It may be summarized in the word ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

Welcome

Opening Hymn: OSB 220 "The Old Rugged Cross"

Act of Adoration

Pastor: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord; God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Praise be to You, O Lord most High.

People: **Praise be to Christ, who came to be our Redeemer, who gave His life on the cross for us, and who will come again to take us to our eternal home.**

Pastor: He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities and with His stripes we are healed.

People: **Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. For the Lord has laid on Him the iniquities of us all.**

All: **Praise be to Christ, our only Savior, forever and ever. Amen.**

Act of Confession:

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

(Moment of silence for personal confession.)

All: **Dear Lord, we know that we so very much need this Lenten Season of remembrance and contrition. We often forget the price paid for our salvation. We take for granted the blessings that are ours through faith in Christ. We get so caught up in the routines of our lives, that we neglect spiritual matters. We allow ourselves to give in to the temptations we encounter in our lives. O Lord, we ask You to forgive us all our sins, and we pray that you will use the remembrance of Christ's suffering and death to bring about in us a renewed commitment to living our life for You. Amen.**

Pastor: God sent His Son to be our Savior. He gave His life, His all, when He was crucified, our burdened souls to save. Now each of us though dead in sin, through Him eternal life shall win. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Choir Anthem: “Deep Were His Wounds”

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6 (*Isaiah calls us to rejoice for God is our salvation.*)

In that day you will say: “I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.” ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day you will say: “Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn Response: OSB 241 “To God Be The Glory”

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (*Paul reminds us that we are to share the message that God has reconciled us to Himself.*)

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn Response: OSB 93 “I Love To Tell The Story”

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3; & 11-32 (*Jesus reminds us how great God’s love is for each of us.*)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ Then Jesus told them this parable:

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your

son.’²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.’³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn Response: OSB 153 “Oh, How He Loves You And Me”

Sermon: John 15:5 “Strength For Life”

The Apostles Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Offerings

Act of Thanksgiving:

All: We thank You, O God, the Father, the Creator of our world, that You sent Your only begotten Son to be our Savior. We thank You, O Jesus, for giving Your life on the cross that we can have life everlasting. We thank You, O Holy Spirit, for calling us by the Gospel and bringing us to saving faith in Jesus. We thank You, O Triune God, for providing for the spiritual needs of each of us so that we can have forgiveness and salvation. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: OSB 198 “Sweet Hour Of Prayer”

Act of Supplication

Pastor: Almighty God, we know You have committed to Your people the ministry of intercession, and so we trust that You hear us as we pray for others.

For Your Holy Church throughout the world: bestow on all ministers of Your Word and Sacraments an abundance of Your grace and strengthen Your people in their faith, that the Gospel of Christ may be proclaimed throughout the world.

People: **We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: For Your people here and everywhere: increase in them a love for Your house, zeal for serving You, and joy in seeing others come to faith in Christ as their Savior.

People: We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor: For the nations of the world: breathe on them the spirit of peace and understanding and cause all those in authority to seek Your guidance in the decisions they must make each day.

People: We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

(Any special prayers will be included here.)

Pastor: For those struggling with illness or other issues: Give strength to the weary, relief to the suffering, and comfort to the bereaved.

People: We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor: We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our Savior, who also taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Benediction

Pastor: Christ Jesus is the Vine, We are the branches. Connected to Him we find strength of our lives each day.

The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

Hymn: OSB 113 "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross"

Church
News

ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of March 30, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Ken Lampe Cell: 417-366-3597

pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

**Family for the Week: Jim & Alice Troyke & Homebound Families
St. John's, Monett - Rev. Andrew Kennell**

Prayers of Peace and Comfort

Family of Ernest Ramm – (Brother-in-law of Gladys Bauer on his passing)

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Alissa Loveland – (Bob & Rachel Sanford's daughter healing from car accident)

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
Bob Brents – (health and healing)
Treaasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Roger Harris – (Wendy's Dad – health and healing from flu)
Ervin Jung – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Deborah Knotts – (our cleaning lady – health and healing)
Wendy Koenig – (friend of Heidi Costello – health and healing from flu)
Tabitha Packwood – (health & healing)

Steve Parker – (friend of Joanne Michel – health and healing surgery)
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
Robert Sick – (Ardella Frerich's granddaughter's husband)
Bill Thompson – (health and healing)
Bryan Velasco – (friend of Bernie Thomas – health and healing)
Thomas Williams – (Ruth Stoddard's friend)

Long Term

Diana Bauer – (daughter-in-law of Gladys Bauer – health & healing)
Jami Bauer – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Rick Bauer – (Gladys Bauer's son – health and healing from surgery)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Steve Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing)
Jan Fisher – (daughter of Bill & Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Jane Goodman – (health & healing)
Betty Gordon – (Health and healing)
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
Vicki Heppard – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health & healing from cancer)

Ron Hicks – (friend of Glenda Enlow – health and healing)
Steve Hilton – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing, cancer)
Sheryl Holle – (Kathy Holle's cousin – health & healing, cancer)
Marty Jones – (Bobby Jones' mother – health)
Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Gary Lampe – (Pastor's brother – health and healing)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's Sister-In-Law – health & healing)
Larry Moennig – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
Kooper Tutten – (Jeepers Meyer's Great-grandson healing)
Barbara Jean Wilson – Friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	Mar. 30th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service Lunch after Service
Monday	Mar. 31st	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Wednesday	Apr. 2nd	Pastor in Office Lenten Lunch-12:00 @ Verona Catholic Church Pizza – 5:30 pm Service - 6:30 pm – Pastor Ken
Thursday	Apr. 3rd	Pastor in Office
Sunday	Apr. 6th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with Communion Free will offering – see below
Monday	Apr. 7th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm LWML in Freistatt – 1:30 pm - see below

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: Michael & Amy Garoutte- Apr. 5

Greeters	March	Ushers
03/30: Emily Ernest & Sue Doss		30: David Lampe
Greeters	April	Ushers
04/06: Gladys Bauer & Cheryl Lile		04/06: Bill Michel

04/13: Emily Ernest & Sue Doss
04/20: Bill and Joanne Michel
04/27 Charlie and Edee Chambers

04/13: : Rob Springer
04/20: Charlie Chambers
04/27: David Lampe



Choice Dollars: Please use them or lose them by March 31. If questions, ask Pam.

Portals of Prayer for April-June are now available.

New Member Church Directory: We will be printing a new church directory in April. We will have a proof sheet for review of information. Please review the sheet and make any corrections as needed. You may also text me at 417-489-0413 or email changes to chambers120@gmail.com. Also, if you want a new picture, txt or email a selfie that you wish to include in the directory.

Lenten Lunches started on March 12 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Verona. (212 N 2nd St.)

Wednesday, April 9: Grace Lutheran Church is responsible for serving the meal at the Lenten Lunch on Wednesday, April 9th. The meals are being served at the Catholic Church in Verona. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone wanting to help with this project. We will need soup, sandwiches and dessert for approximately 50 people. If you have any questions, contact Pam Bowling.

April 5 (Saturday) Project Shine will be from 9 am to 12 pm at Camp Barnabas to help get ready for campers this summer. Please sign up! The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Bowling.

MEN:

Build bunk beds
Build gate
Put up railings around Inspirational Point
Replace Smoke Alarm batteries

LADIES:

Clean ranch house downstairs
Wash windows in new dining hall
Clean bathroom floors in Well house
Wash and fold laundry in Well house

LWML will meet April 7 at 1:30 in the chapel. Our guest speaker will be Karen Millsap, a glass artist, from Mt. Vernon. She will be telling us about her work and about the role of the Mt. Vernon Regional Arts Council in our community. Please join us for this interesting program.

The LWML Spring Gathering will be held on Sunday, May 4th, at Stockton, Missouri.

Registration begins at 2:30 pm. The gathering begins at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, please let Edith Chambers know by April 15th. Additional information is on the flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions, ask Edith.

Free Will Offering April 6: Grace will be taking a freewill offering for Pastor to help with local requests for food, rent, utilities, etc.