



## March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent

### AS WE GATHER

For our Sundays in Lent, we are focusing on the theme of repentance. That is, that we should turn away from sin, away from the world, away from ourselves, and turn to Jesus Christ expecting to receive help and all good things from Him. To do so, each Sunday we will reflect on one of the Psalms of ascent. **This morning**, we turn to Psalm 123, which teaches us to turn to Jesus, expecting to receive mercy from Him. “To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens. ... our eyes look to the LORD our God, till He has mercy upon us” (Psalm 123:1-2).

### WELCOME

**HYMN**        *LSB 915, “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”*

### INVOCATION

**Pastor:**        In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:**        **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES; CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:**        For the Sundays in Lent this year, we focus on the theme of repentance; we turn away from our sin. We turn towards God our Savior. We turn to Jesus to be our helper and our keeper.

**People:**        **We lift our eyes to the hills. Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth, who is our keeper.**

**Pastor:**        We turn to Jesus, expecting to receive mercy from Him.

**People:**        **Our eyes look to You, O Lord, until you have mercy upon us.**

**Pastor:**        We turn to Jesus, trusting in Him.

**People:**        **Those who trust in the Lord are like mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.**

**Pastor:**        We turn to Jesus, knowing that apart from Him, our labors are in vain.

**People:**        **Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.**

**Pastor:**        We turn to Jesus out of the depths, crying to Him to hear our pleas for mercy.

**People:**        **If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

**Pastor:**        We take a moment of silence to cry out to our Lord, asking Him for mercy.

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

**People:**        **Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord! Hear our plea for mercy: We are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

**Pastor:** If our Lord should mark iniquities, who could stand? But with Him there is forgiveness. Therefore, almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **KYRIE**

**Pastor:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Genesis 12:1–9*

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

<sup>5</sup> And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 123*

Pastor: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**People:** **Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

**People:** **Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.**

**EPISTLE READING** *Romans 4:1–8, 13-17*

<sup>1</sup> What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” ... <sup>13</sup> For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup> That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR** *“Lamb of God”*

**GOSPEL READING** *John 3:1-17*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the third chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world,

that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *LSB 702, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

**SERMON**      *"Turn to Jesus, expecting mercy from Him" (Psalm 123)*

### **NICENE CREED**

**All:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answer us, O Lord.

**People:** Amen.

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**      *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 159-160)*

**All:** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,**

**In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

### **THE COMMUNION CONFESSION**

**Pastor:** The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as

you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

**People:** **I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (Augsburg Confession-Article X)**

## **PREFACE**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 161*)

**All:** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** Blessed are You ... one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:** O Lord ... So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **THE 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.**

## **THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

**LAMB OF GOD** (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 163*)

All: 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.

**DISTRUBUTION HYMNS**

*LSB 618, "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"*

*LSB 761, "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"*

*LSB 427, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

**THANK THE LORD** (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 164*)

All: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. ... one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

**BLESSING**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: 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** *LSB 921, "On What Has Now Been Sown"*

**CLOSING**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

Opening sentences and confession/absolution adapted from Psalms 121, 123, 125, 127, and 130 (ESV) and the confession/absolution in Divine Service setting 1 (LSB 151). Service adapted from Divine Service setting 1 (LSB 151-166).



**ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of March 1, 2026**

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

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 [pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com](mailto:pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com) Pastor's Day Off; Friday

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Family for the Week: James Sharp & Dane Arbuckle Families  
Grace, Aurora - served by Rev. Daniel Heitshusen

**Prayers of Peace and Comfort:**

Rex Miller family: (Sue Doss' uncle – peace and comfort for the family)

Larry Littler Family: (father of Mitch Littler – peach and comfort for the family)

**Prayers of Thanksgiving**

**Prayers for Health and Healing:**

Opal Bulow (niece of Linda Myers)

Grassfires in TX

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## Complete Prayer List:

### Temporary

Tammy Ardrey (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)  
Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)  
Becky – (daughter of Diane and Bill Thompson)  
Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)  
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)  
Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)  
Sara Drewianka – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing from accident)  
Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son to Teri)  
McGee family – (health and healing)  
Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoyer–Wolf)

Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son–in–law's mother)  
Donnie Munden – (brother–in–law of Cathy Munden)  
Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)  
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)  
Joe Pennington – (brother–in–law of Bill Michel – health and healing)  
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)  
LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)  
Tim Tucek – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)  
Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

### Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)  
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)  
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)  
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)  
Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)  
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken–hip)  
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)  
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)  
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)  
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)  
Betty Gordon – (health and healing)  
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)  
Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)  
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)  
Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)  
Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)  
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister–In–Law – 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)  
Bill Thompson – (health and healing)  
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

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		<b>WEEK</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am</b> <b>Fellowship – 9:30 am</b> <b>Service with communion – 10:00 am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>NO Braille</b> <b>LWML at Freistatt - 1:30 pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Pastor's Day off</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lenten Lunch: United Methodist Church in Aurora</b> <b>Service - 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Baby Shower for Rachel: Church Basement at 6:00 pm.</b> <b>Confirmation - 5:30 pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am</b> <b>Fellowship – 9:30 am</b> <b>Service – 10:00 am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Braille - 9:00 am &amp; 1:00 pm</b> <b>Ladies Bible study at Freistatt - 1:30 pm</b>

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**Birthdays: Mar. 2-Stan Crandall; Mar. 8-Sharon Crandall**

**Anniversaries: Mar. 2-Rob & Marlo Springer**

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### March

#### **GREETERS:**

**01: Bill & Joanne Michel**  
08: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer  
15: Stan & Sharon Crandall

#### **USHERS:**

**01: Harold Lampe**  
08: Mathew Springer  
15: Bill Michel



**Baby Shower for Rachel:** March 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, at 6:00 pm. It will be a diaper shower at Grace. Since storing diapers is a space issue, gift cards are welcome as well. If any questions, please contact Sue Doss.

**Lenten Lunch:** All of them will be held at the United Methodist Church in Aurora every Wednesday during Lent starting Feb. 25. They will all begin at noon. Grace will provide the meal on March 11, and Pastor Heitshusen will be the speaker that day as well.

**LWML** will meet on March 2, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Trinity Chapel. The program will be led by Karen Kleiboeker. A short business meeting will follow. Please join us.

**Sheltering Hope** is an organization here in Aurora. They recently voted to form the following committees in 2026 to meet their goals: Jobs committee, Mentorship committee, and Transportation committee. If you are interested in learning more about Sheltering Hope and/or serving on one of the committees, please see Pastor Heitshusen for more details.

**Jodi Wright needs pictures** of Grace's Ministry teams, individuals in the group, and a short summary of activities for our web site. If you have specific questions, please contact Jodi.

**Transportation Help Needed:** One of our shut-ins is in need of transportation help to and from her doctors' appointments. We would like to have a list of people who are willing to help. You would **not** be signing up to be a driver for every appointment. You would only be signing up to be on the list of individuals willing to be contacted if needed. Please contact Pastor Heitshusen if you are willing to put your name on the list and/or if you have any questions.

**St. Paul Choir:** On Wednesday, March 4th, at 7 pm, the choir from St. Paul Lutheran High School of Concordia, Missouri, will perform at St. John's, Monett. The pieces selected reflect sacred themes meant to encourage us on our Lenten journeys. An offering will be received to support the choir.