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**We have  
peace  
with God  
through  
our Lord  
Jesus  
Christ.**

Romans 5:1



*Second Sunday in Lent  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Jackson Center, Ohio  
February 25, 2024  
Traditional Service  
8:00 am*

Welcome to  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*Second Sunday in Lent*  
February 25, 2024 ~ 8:00 A.M.

**Welcome to Our Guests**

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! May your soul be nourished, your faith be strengthened and your life be touched by God in a special way while you're here. We believe God has a purpose for you being with us today and our desire is to be an instrument in helping you discover and fulfill that purpose. You are always invited to come and worship with us. Please let us know if the pastor or we may be of service to you in any way.

**As We Gather through Jesus**

This is the condition of God's covenant: walk before the Lord and be blameless. It is by God turning us to him that we are made righteous through Jesus. This is the justification by faith that yields peace with God. Otherwise, we would always be striving to be blameless on our own merits, instead of simply continuing to walk before the Lord. We walk by faith in the grace that God has given us through our Lord Jesus Christ. We do not walk by our blameless works, as though we never sin. Rather, we endure our nature with great hope in God. This is the confession that we make: Christ is Lord—we are not.

**Gathering**

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

*\* Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome

\*Opening Hymn:           **"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"**           LBW # 304

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

*Silent time for reflection and confession of sin*

P: Most merciful Father,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

\*Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

**All: Eternal and Immortal God, only you are able to transform the hopelessness of a shameful death into the hope and promise of eternal life. Show us the way to stand firm in the promise of eternal life through all of life's trials and tragedies; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

Choir Anthem "I Want to Be More Like You"

Adult Choir

## Word

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

First Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

ESV pg # 11

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:23-31 (read responsively)

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> **For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.**

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup> **The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

<sup>28</sup> **For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup> All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

<sup>30</sup> **Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;**

<sup>31</sup> they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

**Praise the LORD!**

Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11

ESV pg # 942

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

**Glory to you, O Lord** (sung)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.** (sung)

Children's Message

Pastor Bert

Sermon

Pastor Bert

\*Apostles Creed (stand)

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.

\*The Prayers of the Church (stand)

Lord's Prayer

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

## Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the saving Word and all God's gifts.

### Gathering of the Gifts

- \*The Offering Hymn      **"Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross"**      SS # 174
- \*The Offertory      ***"What shall I render to the Lord"***      LBW # 67
- \*Offertory Prayer      Page 67

Pastor: Merciful Father,

**All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us- our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Sending

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

\*The Benediction

### Mission and Ministry Moments

\*Song      **"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"**      LBW # 309

\*Sending

P: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Organ Postlude

## ***Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve***

There is a **box for offering** located on a table at the back of the church, for you to drop off offerings. Ways of giving on our website there is a link if you click on the online giving tab, is set up with Vanco electronic giving. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help facilitate the Lord's work here.

**Easter flower** order forms are available at the back of the church. **Orders need to be turned in by Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Lay & Witness is **in need of packages of diapers** for the new baby bags that the Pastors deliver to the new born babies in the congregation. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**The Backpack program** is asking for donations for the program. They are asking for fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups and peanut butter cups, small individual boxes of cereal, & small individual microwave meal cups (mac & cheese cups). There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations. Thank you for all of the contributions, we greatly appreciate all of them.

### **Today 2024 Tanzania Mission Trip Fundraiser - Annual Pork Meal:**

The Mission Committee and the Grace Lutheran Church members attending the Tanzania Mission trip will be hosting the annual pork meal. The money raised will be used to divide up amongst the individuals attending the trip to cover costs. Those attending from Grace Church are Pastor Bert and Pastor Shelly, Abby Pence, Grace and Gabrielle Woolley, and Darrel and Macy Klopfenstein. The Mission Committee is thankful for these individuals visiting Tanzania, checking in on the Orphanage and Outreach ministry, and building those relationships with our Tanzania Christian brothers and sisters. That face to face, "boots on the ground" is extremely valuable, not only to the people of the Bariadi District, but to us as a congregation! Tickets can be obtained from anyone of the individuals going on the trip, any of the Mission Committee members, or get them from the church office. **The \$10.00 meal will be served from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm** and includes pork loin, baked potato, green beans, and a roll. **Meals are carry-out only** and you can don't even need to get out of your car, as we will collect tickets and distribute the meals on the south side of the church. We will also deliver to anyone that has a hard time getting out as long as we now about it and have an address. Thank you in advance!

### **Orphanage and Outreach Ministry Appreciation Banquet**

On Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm, the Mission Committee will be hosting an Appreciation Banquet for those that have supported the Tanzania Ministry or for those interested in learning more about it. The banquet will have a few speakers and will include a free meal. If anyone is interested, please RSVP by Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> so that we can prepare for the amount needed for the meal. RSVPs can be sent to the church office by phone or by email at [jcgracelutheran@outlook.com](mailto:jcgracelutheran@outlook.com) or can be given to any of the Mission Committee members. We cannot say enough about your continued faithful giving over the years and the enormous impact your support is having on the 24 students, the remote villages, and the entire ministry! THANK YOU!

**Mark your calendars**, Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> Backpack packing will be at 6:00 pm at the JC Methodist Church.

**Congratulations** to Luke & Allissa Creager on the birth of their son Elijah Joshua Creager born February 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:01 pm at Mary Rutan Hospital in Bellefontaine. Elijah weighed 9 lbs .79 ounces and measured 20.5" long. He is welcomed home by brother Gatlin and sister Joelle. Proud grandparents are Dana & Dianne Ware and Jim & Bonnie Creager.