



The Third Sunday in Lent  
March 23, 2025  
9:30 AM

# Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

7160 South Robert Trail, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

651-455-0093    www.aglcigh.org

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**Welcome friends in Christ!** We're grateful for your presence here in worship today.

If you are visiting, please sign the guest book in the entryway.

- Children are welcome to utilize the open space in the back for quiet play during worship.
- Feel free to remain seated at any time during the service.

## GATHER:

We gather as people of God, a family of faith.

*Lent is a kind of journey. We start with ashes on our foreheads—a reminder that our journey will someday end. We complete the journey with Christ in Jerusalem, on the cross, and in the empty tomb. We gather each week around the good news that God pursues us with grace all along this journey.*

## Centering Music

*Use this opportunity to center yourself before worship.*

Rock of Ages (with Hiding in Thee)

arr. Donna J. Krieger

Wash O God, Our Sons and Daughters

arr. Hayes and Carlson

## Welcome

### Call to Worship (Psalm 63)

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you.

**My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land.**

Therefore, I gaze upon you in your holy place,

**That I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your steadfast love is better than life itself.

**My lips shall give you praise. I will bless you as long as I live!**

My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,

**And my mouth praises you with joyful lips!**

For you have been my helper,

**And under the shadow of your wings, I will rejoice!**

My whole being clings to you.

**Your right hand holds me fast!**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

## Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
 Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
 To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.  
 God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
 We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.  
 one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
 By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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**Greeting**

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

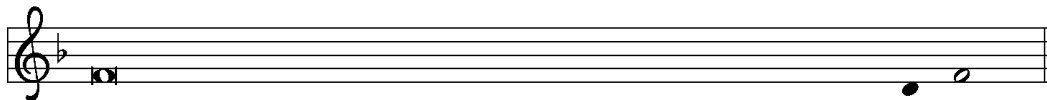
**And also with you.**

Kyrie:

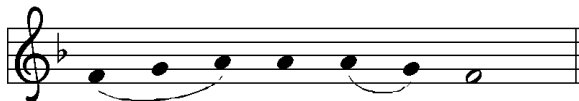
Setting 3



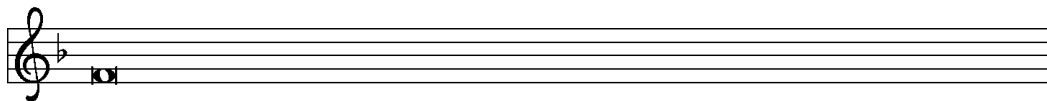
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



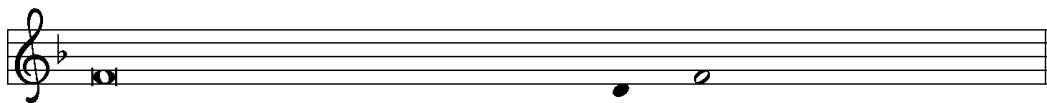
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



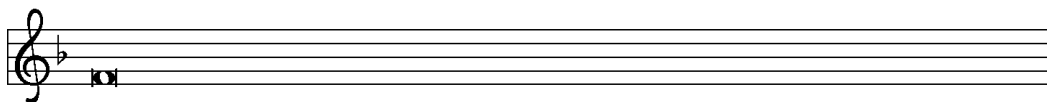
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



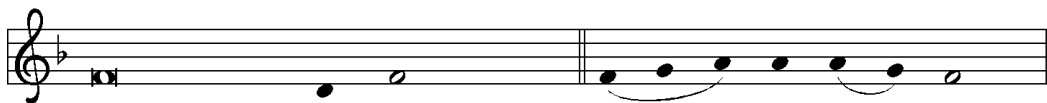
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



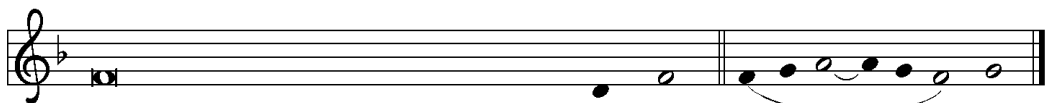
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle:

Setting 3

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,

**your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **GROW:**

We grow as we are fed by the Word and nourished at the Lord's table.

### **First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9**

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Acclamation: Return to the Lord** *Verses 1-4*

**ACS 921**

## Return to God

Leader

1 In all af - flic - tion  
2 With great en - dur - ance  
3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship  
4 With hum - ble spir - it  
5 By speech that's truth - ful  
6 To cease op - pres - sion  
7 By lov - ing jus - tice  
8 With gen - tle kind - ness

Assembly

1 In all af - flic - tion  
2 With great en - dur - ance  
3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship  
4 With hum - ble spir - it  
5 By speech that's truth - ful  
6 To cease op - pres - sion  
7 By lov - ing jus - tice  
8 With gen - tle kind - ness





Text: Marilyn Haskel, b. 1945  
 Music: RETURN TO GOD, Marilyn Haskel  
 Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

### Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.<sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?<sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.<sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’<sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.<sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

Message

Pastor Tim Maybee

Hymn of the Day: As Rain from the Clouds

ELW 508

### As Rain from the Clouds



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,  
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown  
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.  
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.  
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow  
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow  
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.  
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.  
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;  
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;  
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.  
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.  
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,  
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,  
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield.



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.  
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.  
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896

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## **Confession of Faith**

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. Bless the proclamations of our partner congregation in Magulilwa, Tanzania. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion, especially those we name before you now... Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

*AGLC gives in the style of our Tanzanian partners. You may place any gift in the basket as you come forward for communion. If you don't have a physical gift to share, you are encouraged to dip your hand in the basket as a reminder that God uses you to do God's work in the world.*

### **Offering Song: On My Heart Imprint Your Image**

**ELW 811**

#### **On My Heart Imprint Your Image**



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.  
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

## Offering Prayer

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

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.**

O God, Creator of our wilderness world,

O God, Savior of the lost,

O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,

We give you thanks for your everlasting might;

We glorify you for your covenant of mercy.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.

**We praise you, O God.**

For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of the law.

**We praise you, O God.**

For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.

**We praise you, O God.**

You became truly human in Jesus our brother.

For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the power of the devil.

**Save us, O God.**

Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.

Make this food into manna for our journey.

**Save us, O God.**

### Jesus' Invitation

### Holy, Holy, Holy

### Setting 3



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



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

### Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation**

*Amazing Grace Lutheran Church practices open communion. Whether you are a member of AGLC or not, you are invited to the table that is set by Christ for you.*

*All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread!*

### **Distribution**

**P:** The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The wine used in worship is alcohol-free. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

### **Communion Songs: Lamb of God**

### **Setting 3**

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.

**God Extends an Invitation  
Before the Waters Nourished Earth  
Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty**

**ELW 486  
ACS 1049  
ELW 777**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Generous Host,

**you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

**GO:**

We go into the world, sent by God, to serve all people in the name of Jesus.

## **Benediction**

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts**

**ELW 658**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude: Bless Now. O God, Our Journey**

**arr. Thomas Keesecker**