



The Second Sunday in Lent  
March 1, 2026  
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.
- The nursery is available if a child needs a noisier space, with parental supervision.
- 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.*

## Welcome

### Call to Worship (Psalm 121)

I lift my eyes up to the hills; from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved, nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

**The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore!**

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;  
 2 The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand  
 3 The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace  
 4 Your prom - ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—  
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.  
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.  
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



“I Am the One I Am”— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—  
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!  
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.  
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.  
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent.

Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

## **The Baptisms of Jack and Charlotte Zeyer**

Please join us as we confess our common 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 into hell.  
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.**

**Congregational Response: Welcome to the body of Christ! Together we will seek to be in healthy relationships with God, our neighbors throughout the world, and creation itself. We promise to walk with you through your life of faith as we discover together what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ here and now. Thanks be to God!**

## All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized shall see the Lord's sal -  
 2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray, grant us your Ho - ly



va - tion; bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, they are a  
 Spir - it; help us in our in - fir - mi - ty through Je - sus'



new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re-demp-tion they will stand a -  
 blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day by



mong the glo - rious heav'n-ly band of ev-'ry tribe and na - tion.  
 ho - ly bap - tism, that we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860–1943, alt.  
 Music: ES IST DAS HEIL, *Etlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God,  
**our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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: Genesis 12:1-4a**

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> 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> 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 the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor 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 reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants 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, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## 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

All



re - turn, re - turn to God.

Text: Marilyn Haskel, b. 1945

Music: RETURN TO GOD, Marilyn Haskel

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

## Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very

truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, 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> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Message**

**Pastor Tim Maybee**

**Hymn of the Day: God Loved the World**

**ELW 323**

## God Loved the World



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

## Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages like George Herbert whom the church remembers today, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, especially those we name before you now... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**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: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Verse 4)**

**ELW 803**

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**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.**

### Sung Words of Institution

*Verses 1 & 2: Pastor, Verse 3: All*



3. So, we thank You for \_ the wine \_ and for the bread; \_ For we  
see the life \_ You gave \_ and the blood You \_ shed. And we re -  
-mem - ber Your won - drous \_ love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your \_  
blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous \_  
love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your \_ blood.

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### Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.*

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy!

## 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.

**Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters**

**Come to the Water of Life**

**Blessed Assurance**

**ELW 445**

**ACS 955**

**ELW 638**

## Prayer after Communion

God of our salvation,

**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## Announcements

### GO:

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

## Benediction

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence,

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,

and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,

✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: Lift High the Cross**

**ELW 660**

## Lift High the Cross

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Lift High the Cross'. It consists of two staves of music in G-clef (treble clef) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.' The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and dotted notes.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Trust the good news of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**