



# Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

7:00pm

## INTRODUCTION

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

*\*-Indicates to stand as you are able.*

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*God gathers us in unity.*

**GATHERING**

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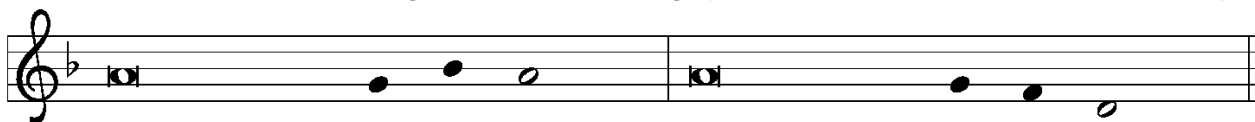
## PRELUDE

*Lamb of God Pure and Sinless*

*David Cherwein*

## \*GATHERING PSALMODY – Psalm 51

*Sung Responsively (**Congregation bold print**)*



<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in  
your sight; so you are justified when you speak and  
right | in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

**<sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

**<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

**<sup>14</sup>Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

**<sup>16</sup>For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not  
despise.

**<sup>18</sup>Favor Zion with | your good pleasure;  
build up the walls | of Jerusalem.**

<sup>19</sup>Then you will delight in the appointed sacrifices, in  
burnt | and whole offerings;  
then young bulls shall be offered up- | on your altar.

## **\*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you  
breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you  
and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness,  
and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the  
mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

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*God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.*

**WORD**

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**FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near — <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. <sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10**

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of

God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands as able.*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW#359

Vs 1, 2, 5

## **INVITATION TO LENT**

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God, **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, 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, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness,  
the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our  
lives,

we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people,  
we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to share the faith that is in us,  
we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments,  
our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from  
us,  
we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence,  
reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ  
are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our  
Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please proceed to the Chancel steps by the center aisle  
to receive ashes.*

*Return to your pew by the side aisle.*

*The forehead of each person is marked with a cross of ashes:  
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

*After all who desire ashes have received them,  
\*all stand, and the presider continues:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

### **\*THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition concludes:*

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

### **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*During this flu season and the ongoing pandemic, we remind you that it is appropriate to greet each other and pass the peace verbally rather than have hand contact, which helps to transmit the flu virus. Please remember to use the hand sanitizers that are available in each pew, upon arrival and throughout the service as needed.*

*The assembly may be seated.*

### **OFFERING**

*We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today's regular offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church. You can give online, by cash, or by check.*

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

*arr. Grace Chancel Choir/Frederick Maker*

*Grace Chancel Choir*

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

**MEAL**

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. 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.**



## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

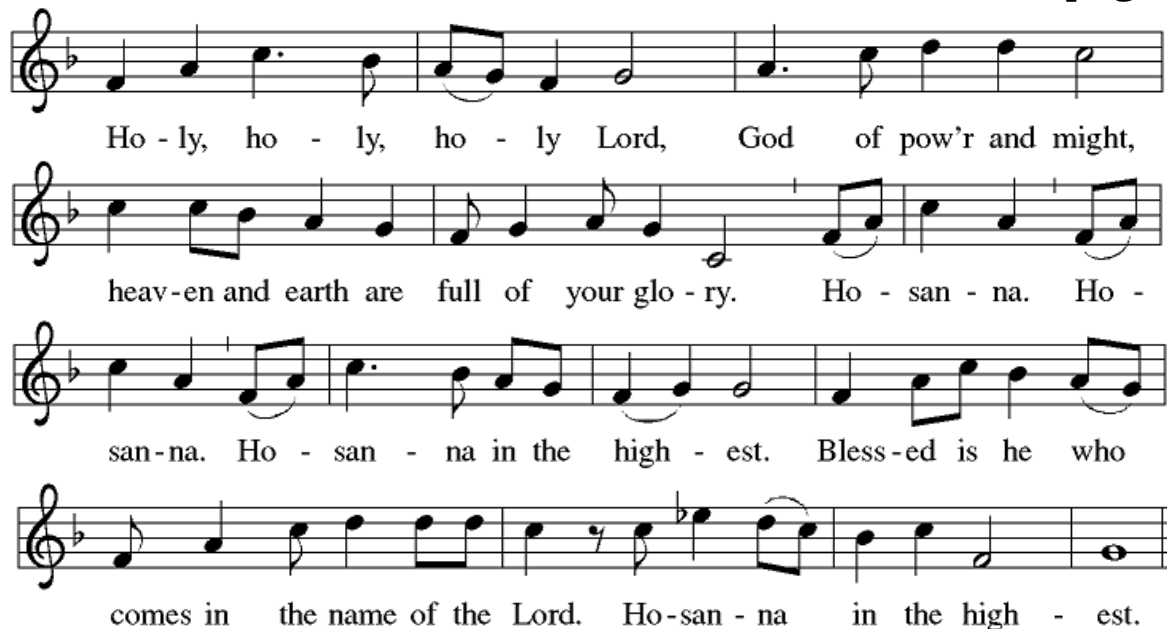
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **\*SANCTUS**

ELW page 144



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.

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and  
ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Those communing in their seats and at home are led through  
each element.*

## **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

*The assembly stands as able.*

## **\*BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Let us pray. 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.**

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

**SENDING**

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## **\*BLESSING**

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **\*SENDING HYMN**

*You Are Mine*

ELW#581

## **\*DISMISSAL**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

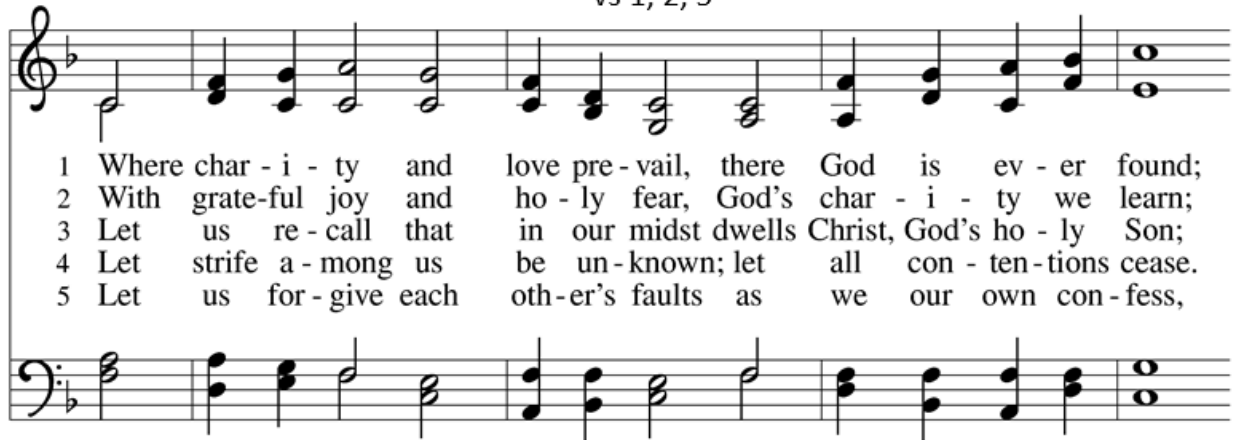
*David Cherwein*

### **SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP**

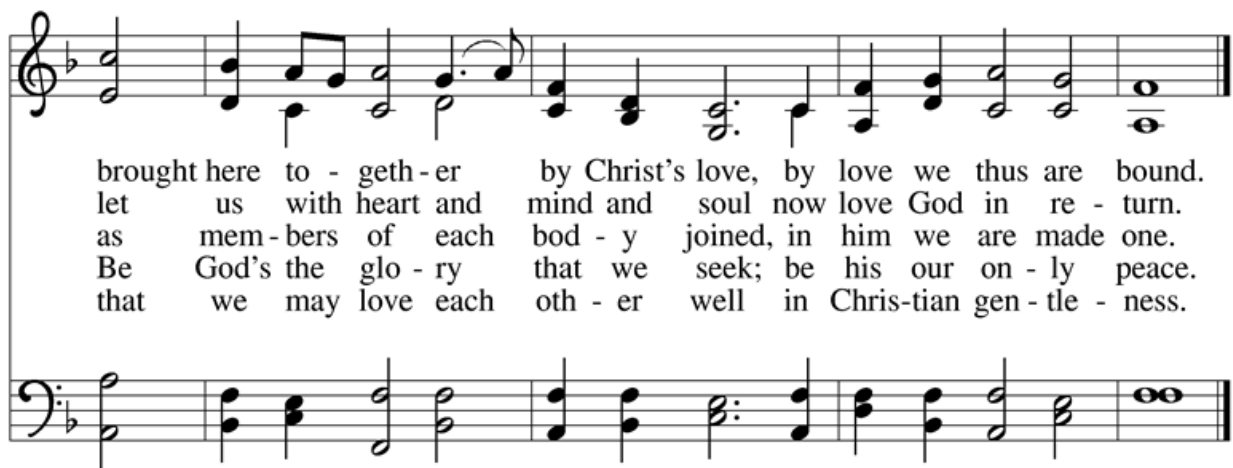
Presiding Minister ..... The Rev. Chad Butz  
Assisting Minister..... Krista Snavelly  
Lector ..... Michelle Knight  
Acolyte ..... Raelyn Flook  
Communion Assistants ..... Tom Blackburn, Julie Flook  
Director of Music..... Kristopher Hartman  
Organist ..... Carolyn Houck

# Where Charity and Love Prevail

vs 1, 2, 5



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,  
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,  
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,  
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom,

I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see.  
 heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.

(2) In the



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be  
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here.  
 Come and rest in me.  
 all will know my name.  
 up, now walk and live!

To stanza 2

To refrain

To refrain

To refrain



Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I

To stanzas 3 and 4



love you and you are mine."

4 "I

## **Our Story**

Matthew 25:35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”*

***The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God’s love and our faith***

### **Grace Church Staff**

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To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; [office@gracecamphill.org](mailto:office@gracecamphill.org)  
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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