



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 9, 2025

10:00 A.M.

OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
7045 LYNDAL AVENUE SOUTH, RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission Statement

*To Put the Love of Jesus into Action,
As We Welcome, Serve and Love All People.*

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ 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.

† *Please stand as you are able.*

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.

+ GATHERING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our Good

ELW 504

vss. 1, 3 & 4

+ 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

Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

ELW 602


vss. 1 & 2

Leader




1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

All



Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of





e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the

sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray, O Lord God,

you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Read responsively.

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,
no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 10:8b-13

But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

Chorale

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Return to the Lord**ELW p. 151*

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

+ GOSPEL Luke 4:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

St. Paul writes: *There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for a particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all.* (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this community of faith reflect Christ in whose name we gather. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation. On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Council Members: Yes, by the help of God.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized.

Congregation: Yes, by the help of God.

I now declare you installed as church council members of this congregation. God bless you with God's Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes with:
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

+ 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.

+ 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ LORD'S PRAYER

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.

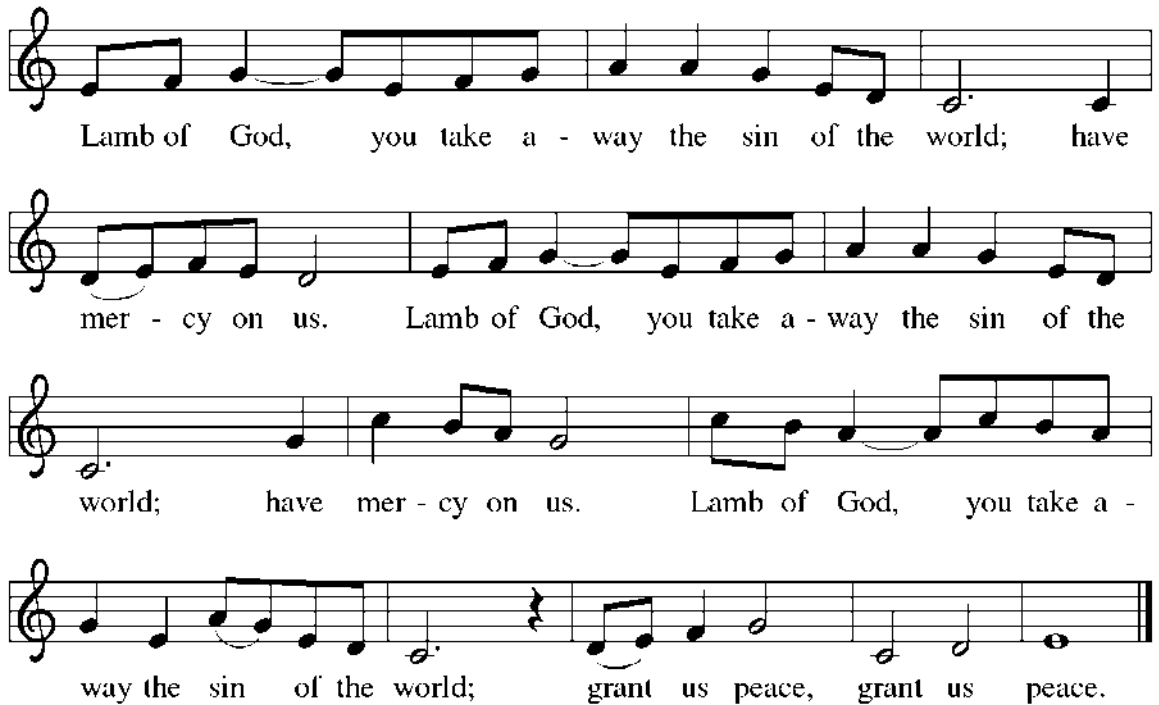
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 112-113



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, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION

Let Us Break Bread together

ELW 471

BLESSING

+ 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.

+ BENEDICTION

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

Amen.

+ SENDING FORTH HYMN

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
vss. 1 & 3

ELW 618

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Lenten Worship with *Holden Evening Prayer*

The theme for our Wednesday Lenten worship this year is *Living with Questions*. Asking questions is a normal part of the human experience. We do not have to be ashamed of our doubts or hide our questions, before God and each other. In fact, God fully welcomes them and welcomes us. Each Wednesday in worship, Pastor Lee will share a message based on a question submitted by an Oak Grove member. (Not all questions that were submitted can be a part of this series. Please know that they may be addressed in a Sunday sermon in the future.) May your questions speak to all of us as we move together toward the great and joyous mystery of Easter resurrection.

Week 1: March 12 *How Do I Pray When It Is Difficult to Pray?*

Week 2: March 19 *Was Jesus 'Woke'?*

Week 3: March 26 *Does God Really Help Those Who Help Themselves?*

Week 4: April 2 *Why in Lutheran Worship Do We Still Reference the Old Testament?*

Week 5: April 9 *What Was It Like Growing Up Gay in the Lutheran Church?*

Responding to Christian Nationalism

'Christian' nationalism may sound like a good thing because it uses the word Christian. And the people who advocate for 'Christian' nationalism do think of themselves as Christian. However, they stand for things that we in our tradition identify as contrary to the Gospel."

– ELCA Advocacy Statement

In a two-session series, Mary Beth Mohn and Pastor Lee will share an opportunity to explore an ideology known as 'Christian nationalism'. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on:
Sunday, March 16, 11:05 a.m. & Sunday, March 23, 11:05 a.m.

Prayer Chain

We are starting a prayer chain and need people who would like to be included as a contact person to pass along the prayers. What would be needed is one person to start it by texting or calling a couple of people who would each contact a couple more people and so on. The prayers would only be passed along if the person needing the prayers contacts the church office and gives their permission. If you would like to be included as a contact person please text or call Georgeanne at (952) 212-7155.

Memorial Easter Garden

Easter is just around the corner! We will order flowers for a Memorial Easter Garden. Flowers included: Easter lily, tulip (yellow, purple, pink, orange), and mum (yellow, white). Please use the enclosed order form and include payment with your order (checks to Oak Grove Lutheran Church and marked "Easter Garden"). Your order may be left in the offering plate or in the church office. Please be sure to note if you would like to dedicate the plant(s) "In memory of..." or "In honor of..." someone – this will be included in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin. Orders must be received by **Monday, March 31**.

Building Security Reminder

If you are part of a group using the building in the evening or on the weekend, please double-check that *all* doors (especially office, library, and external doors) are locked and latched behind you, and all room and hall lights are turned off. If you know that others remain in the building, it's a good idea to touch base with them about locking up to make sure that the building is left secure. Through all our efforts, our church building will remain safe and secure.

Oak Grove Interior Door Signage

You may have noticed signage around the church marking certain areas "Private." These signs are used by private groups meeting in the rooms on certain days of the week, as they desire. Members of Oak Grove are welcome in all areas of the building. Any questions about this, please see Julie Tvette.

***The Messenger* Coming Via Email in April**

Starting in April, *The Messenger* newsletter will be coming to you via email! You are set to receive the newsletter if you have been receiving the weekly "What's happening at Oak Grove Lutheran Church," email updates in your inbox. Please let Amy know if you would like to add your email address to the distribution list. Paper copies of *The Messenger* will be available in the narthex and office. If you prefer to have a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please let Amy know at (612) 869-4917 or amy@oakgrovelutheran.org.

Got Pop Cans?

We are still collecting pop cans (and only pop cans) in the trash can outside the elevator on the bottom level. The money goes toward helping kids go to camp!

Sunday Coffee Hour

Did you know that there is a coffee hour downstairs in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning from 9-10 am before worship? Great fellowship and treats—come join us!

Sponsor a Camper!

Your support of our Oak Grove youth is always appreciated, especially this year with the cost of attending Camp Wapo increasing 8%. The Youth will have multiple fundraisers this year, but it would be very helpful if you are able to sponsor a camper or two. Please reach out to Kelli Olson for more information. Thank you all so much for your ongoing support of our youth!

Kelli Olson & Your Oak Grove Youth

Building Needs Forms

If you see something around the building that needs attention, please find a yellow Building Needs form on the small table outside of the church office. You may note whether it concerns a need for “cleaning,” “consumables”, “repair” or “other” and describe the issue. Please leave your name and date, so that we may follow-up as needed.

Building Key Inventory

The building key inventory is going strong. Over 50 keys have been recorded—thanks to everyone who has brought their keys in for imprinting and logging. Please check your key collections at home and bring any keys to the office for this inventory. Working together, we can keep our church building secure!

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION ACTIONS

You have likely heard the news that protections for churches, schools, and hospitals from searches by ICE agents have been rescinded. These actions are intended to provoke fear in the lives of our immigrant neighbors and community members. They violate the freedoms and calling of churches and disrupt the good work that God calls us to do. As these potential actions of federal agencies like ICE are not friendly to our purpose or mission, I am writing with clear guidance for leaders on how to handle the hopefully unlikely event of an ICE audit or raid at Oak Grove Lutheran Church:

- 1. If ICE agents show up at Oak Grove Lutheran Church looking to enter the building, staff, leaders, and community members should not talk with them.** Immigration agents can only enter private areas with a judicial warrant or if they are given permission to enter. Staff should respond simply by saying, "I can't give you permission to enter. You must speak with my employer." If pressed, they should only repeat the same: "You are not allowed to enter. Talk to my employer." Note: It is recommended that churches clearly designate "private spaces" using signage. The narthex, sanctuary, hallway, and fellowship hall are open to the public on Sundays, but we could make it clearer that the entire building is not open to the public on other days, and we could also designate spaces that are always private (classrooms and offices).
- 2. If ICE agents show up at Oak Grove Lutheran Church looking to enter the building, it should be reported immediately to the Pastor, Council President, and office staff.** It is important that an appropriate leader be present to review warrants, provide order and calm, and document any ICE activity. These leaders will be given further guidance on how to handle the situation.
- 3. Know your rights...the U.S. Constitution protects individuals from "unreasonable search and seizure" (4th Amendment) and gives individuals "the right to remain silent" (5th Amendment).** Even if a judicial warrant is presented, staff and others present are not required to answer questions about the whereabouts of a specific person, and they are not required to take them to a person named on a warrant. Running or

leaving can be interpreted as a potential violation of immigration law, so it is best to remain calm and silent.

4. **If ICE agents show up at Oak Grove Lutheran Church looking to do a "Form I-9 Audit," do not provide any document immediately to the agents.** Employers have 3 workdays to provide documents. In the event of an audit, it is important to consult with an immigration lawyer and have any requests handled by the appropriate church leaders.

It grieves us that we must think about and prepare for the possibility of federal agents trying to enter the church and/or childcare center. We should remember that the reality for immigrant and minority neighbors being targeted is far worse. Christ calls us to have courage and do the work of compassion and justice to which we have been called: to love our neighbors as ourselves. If you need more information, please talk to Pastor Lee or Julie Tvette. Here is a helpful document from the National Immigration Law Center with additional details:

<https://www.nilc.org/resources/a-guide-for-employers-what-to-do-if-immigration-comes-to-your-workplace/>

OAK GROVE CORE VALUES STATEMENT

Love one another with compassion and care, just as Christ loves us.

Welcome all people into fellowship with hospitality.

Accept others as they are, treating each person with respect and dignity.

Worship God through music and ministry, reflecting our Lutheran heritage while embracing new ways of worship.

Grow in faith rooted in the Gospel, both as individuals and as a faith community.

Serve the Lord by generously sharing our faith, time, talents, and resources with the community and the world.

OAK GROVE EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 9

- 8:45 am Chorale Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:00 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Conversation with Bishop Jen Nagel on Ministry Site Profile, Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Sunday School, SS Rooms

Monday, March 10

Tuesday, March 11

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting, Library
- 10:00 am Care Club, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 pm Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 5:00 pm Call Committee Meeting, Fireside Room
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting, Fireside Room

Wednesday, March 12

- 9:30 am Bible Study, Fireside Room
 - 5:00 pm 8th Grade Mentoring and Meal, Fellowship Hall
 - 7:00 pm Lenten Worship Service: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Sanctuary
- Following worship: Chorale Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 13

Friday, March 14

Offices Closed

Saturday, March 15

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Library
- 9:00 am Joy Bells Practice, Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesdays: March 12, 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9 — Lenten Worship, 7 pm

Sundays, March 16, 23 — Forum: Responding to Christian Nationalism, 11:05 am

Tuesday, March 18 — Funeral for LaVone Studlien, 11 am, Visitation at 10 am

Monday, March 31 — Easter flower orders due

Sunday, April 13 — Palm Sunday Worship, 10 am & Youth Pancake Breakfast

Thursday, April 17 — Maundy Thursday Worship, 7 pm, House of Prayer

Sunday, April 20 — Easter Sunday Worship, 10 am

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, March 9

Assisting Minister: Lisa Hoyne

Scripture Reader: Margie Risch

Communion Servers: Caren Olson and Phil Olson

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, March 16

Assisting Minister: Mike Tveite

Scripture Reader: *Needed*

Communion Servers: Carol Tveite and Michelle Myroniuk

Media – Facebook Live: Les and Becky Hanson; Julie, Curtis and Elisa Tvette;
Pam Krause; and Kathie Curry

Sound Team: Hermès Radison, Al Tuff, Mike Tveite, and Curtis Tvette

*Oak Grove Lutheran Church sits on traditional lands of the Dakota people.
We acknowledge, with gratitude, the many blessings we receive from this land.*

*Children are always welcome in worship. Activity bags are available
in the library or ask an usher for help in locating them.*

Restrooms: *Located downstairs near the fellowship lounge.*

Hearing devices: *Personal hearing devices are available through the ushers.*



If you're done with this bulletin, please leave it in the pew. It will be recycled.

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Oak Grove Lutheran Church

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Music Staff

Morva Klein, *Organist*

Carol Swenson, *Chorale*

Julie Tvete and Elisa Tvete, *Bell Choirs*



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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 am to 2 pm