



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 16, 2025

10:00 A.M.

OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
7045 LYNDALE 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 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ELW 834
 vss. 1, 2 & 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 *Lord, Have Mercy* ELW 155

1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 Chris - te e - lei - son.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY
 The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray, God of the covenant,
in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM Psalm 27:1-5, 11-14

Read responsively.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

ANTHEM*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

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 13:31-35

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON***My Heart Shall Not Fear*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**Presentation**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

How do you present your child?

Parents and sponsors:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, we present Amelia Raeann for baptism.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed,
and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and sponsors: **We do.**

People of God, do you promise to support Amelia as you are able and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

Congregation: **We do.**

Please stand.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Do you renounce the powers of this world
that rebel against God?

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Please be seated.

Thanksgiving at the Font

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

In the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

Amelia Raeann, I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Amelia with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

As the sign of the cross is made:

Amelia Raeann, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see
your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

The congregation responds:

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us
in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming
word to all the world.**

+ 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. 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ 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.

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

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

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

Lift High the Cross
vss. 1 & 4

ELW 660

+ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Tom Zarth

Please join us in celebrating the life of our beloved former pastor, Rev. Tom Zarth on Saturday, March 22. Memorial service at 11 am with visitation at 10 am.

For the gathering and luncheon after the service, we need additional 6' and 8' white tables (in good condition). If you can lend a table, please label it with your name on the underside, bring it to the church coatroom by Thursday evening (March 20), and notify Margaret Olson at (612) 720-1219 or Morva Klein at (651) 442-3683.

We also need assistance with set-up on Friday Night and clean-up on Saturday afternoon. Please also contact Margaret or Morva if you are able to assist at one or both of these times.

Baptism Today

In Holy Baptism today, Amelia Raeann Berthiaume is reborn a child of God. She is the daughter of James and Alexandra Berthiaume. Her sponsors are Corrina Sorenson, Kyra Sorenson, and Joelle DeCorli.

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: **Today at 11:05 a.m. & Sunday, March 23, at 11:05 a.m.**

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 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?*

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**.

Hosannah Brunch

Hosannah Brunch is back and will be on Palm Sunday, the 13th of April. The food will be egg scramble, rolls, and muffins. Keep in mind this is a great fundraiser for those kids that want to go to camp in the summer. To keep costs down on the front end, please look for the Egg Tree soon and consider taking a few "Eggs" to help us out. I will also have a sheet to track the "Eggs" and reach out closer to the date for drop off times at the Church. There will be a sign-up for workers coming soon. Any questions please reach out to Joan Liljenquist at jbotsie02@aol.com or call her at (612) 600-7636. Thanks so much.

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 Tvete.

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!

***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.

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

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/>

Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA, Resources for Immigration Questions (complete list, including the above message):

<https://mpls-synod.org/resources-for-immigration-questions/>

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 16

- 9:00 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:05 am Forum: Christian Nationalism
- 11:00 am Sunday School, SS Rooms

Monday, March 17

Tuesday, March 18

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting, Library
- 11:00 am Memorial Service for LaVone Studlien, with Visitation at 10:00 am
- 1:00 pm Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 7:00 pm Esther Circle Meeting, Fireside Room

Wednesday, March 19

- 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

Thursday, March 20

Friday, March 21

Offices Closed

Saturday, March 22

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Library
- 8:30 am Joy Bells Practice, Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Memorial Service for Pastor Tom Zarth, with Visitation at 10:00 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Monday, March 31 — Easter flower orders due

Sunday, April 13 — Palm Sunday Worship, 10 am & Hosannah Brunch

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 16

Assisting Minister: Mike Tveite

Scripture Reader: Mary Beth Mohn

Communion Servers: Carol Tveite and Michelle Myroniuk

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, March 23

Assisting Minister: Michelle Myroniuk

Scripture Reader: Michelle Myroniuk

Communion Servers: Carol Swenson and Becky Hanson

Media – Facebook Live: Les and Becky Hanson; Julie, Curtis and Elisa Tvette;
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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Richard Jefferson, *Librarian*

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