



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 23, 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

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty
 vss. 1, 3 & 5

ELW 777

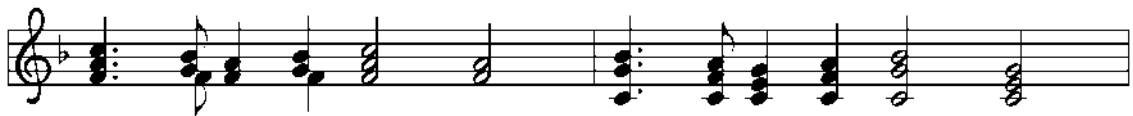
+ GREETING

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, 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.

PSALM Psalm 63:1-8

Read responsively.

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 55:1-9

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. 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. 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. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 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.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ **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 13:1-9

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 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? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

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. 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?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

When Bad Things Happen

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace
vss. 1, 3 & 5

ELW 779

INSTALLATION OF MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

(Lucas Becker, Erin Bohler, Deidre Boyea, Phil Olson)

+ 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:

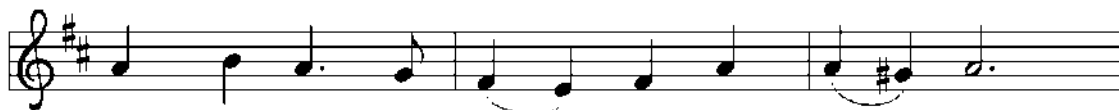
+ SANCTUS

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 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

Rock of Ages

ELW 623

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

Glorious Things of You Are Spoken
vss. 1 & 4

ELW 647

+ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 share an opportunity to explore an ideology known as ‘Christian nationalism’. We will conclude the series today and meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship:
Today 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 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?*

Transplaining: Faith and the Trans Experience in America

Hatred, discrimination and violence against certain groups of people have been on the rise during the last decade, and one of the key groups being targeted is the LGBTQ community – especially trans individuals. As Christians, we’re called to “love our neighbor” without exception. To put a face on this issue and share information about the current state of discrimination the trans community is facing, Oak Grove Lutheran Church is inviting India Miller, a transwoman and activist, to share her story on Saturday, April 5, at 10:30 a.m. India, born Jonathan, will explain how she came to realize her external identity didn’t match who she was inside. She’ll talk about the influence of religion on her journey, as

well as the challenges she has encountered while trying to live authentically in a state and country that is openly hostile to trans individuals. With warmth and humor, India will dispel some common myths about trans people and explain how you can help support this community as an ally. This presentation is free for attendees. In lieu of an admission fee, you're welcome to support The Trevor Project, supporting trans youth at thetrevorproject.org, or to support India's advocacy:



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

The Hosannah Brunch is back and will be on Palm Sunday, April 13. The food will be egg scramble, rolls, and muffins. Keep in mind this is a great fundraiser for those kids who 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. We 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.

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.

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 "For 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 Tvete. 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 23

- 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 24

Tuesday, March 25

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

Wednesday, March 26

- 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 27

Friday, March 28

Offices Closed

Saturday, March 29

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 29 — Girl Scout Drive-Thru Cookie Booth, 12–4 pm (Tentative)

Monday, March 31 — Easter flower orders due

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

Saturday, April 5 — Transplaining with India Miller, 10:30 am

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

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

Friday, April 18 — Good Friday Worship, 7 pm

Sunday, April 20 — Easter Sunday Worship, 8:30 am and 10 am

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, March 23
Assisting Minister: Michele Myroniuk
Scripture Reader: Michele Myroniuk
Communion Servers: Carol Swenson and Becky Hanson

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, March 30
Assisting Minister: Lisa Hoyne
Scripture Reader: Ron Bender
Communion Servers: Scott Olson and Barb Olson

Media – Facebook Live: Les and Becky Hanson, Julie, Curtis and Elisa Tvete

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

*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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Carol Swenson, *Chorale*

Julie Tvete and Elisa Tvete, *Bell Choirs*



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