

# Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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**March 19, 2023 – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*Welcome in Jesus' name.*

*We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.*



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# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**March 19, 2023**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Prelude/Procession/Bells

Welcome and Announcements

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness:**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for Repentance and God's mercy.  
(Silence for Private Confession)

Holy God,

**C: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Opening Hymn: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW #843**

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955 Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **\*Apostolic 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:**

Setting 10, page 203

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us Lord; make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

**\*The Prayer of the Day:**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, **and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Psalm Reading:

Psalm 23

L: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**C: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

L: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

L: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Sermon

### \*Gospel Acclamation: "We are Turning"



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**\*Holy Gospel:**

John 9: 1-41

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does

listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

**\*Hymn:**

“Amazing Grace”

ELW #779

1 Amazing grace!– how sweet the sound–  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

“Amazing Grace” Music by: John Newton  
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**\*Apostle’s Creed:**

**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 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.**

**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.**

**\*Prayers of the People:** (Sing throughout prayers as directed)

O God, We Call

The musical score for 'O God, We Call' is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn for you.' The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Text: Linnea Good, b. 1962  
Music: O GOD, WE CALL, Linnea Good  
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**\*Peace:**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

**Offering:** (children may bring offerings forward)

**\*Offertory Hymn:** "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 597 (v. 1 & 4)

1 My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain*

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.  
Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. **Amen.**

**\*The 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.**

**\*Benediction:**

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn:** "Lead Me, Guide Me"

ELW #768

Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
to help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. REFRAIN

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. REFRAIN

3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy light to see  
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. REFRAIN

Text: Doris Akers, 1922-1995 Music: Doris Akers

**\*Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God.**