

Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd.
(704) 857-8641

Salisbury, NC 28147
www.grace-salisbury.com



4th Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

+ Ministers: The People of Grace +

+ Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +

gracepastor.salisbury@gmail.com (704) 245-2875

+ Director of Youth & Family Ministries Sarah Stirewalt +

graceyouth.salisbury@gmail.com (336) 250-1733

+ Bookkeeper/Treasurer Anita Miller +

gracebookkeeper.salisbury@gmail.com (704)857-8641

+ Secretary Terri Brown +

gracesecretary.salisbury@gmail.com (704) 213-4202

+ Director of Music Lynn Lippard +

+ Director of Children & Youth Choirs Angela Lippard +

+ Accompanist for Children & Youth Teresa Yost +

+ Accompanist for Chancel Choir Becky Lippard +

+ Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene C. Bost +

+ *Those who are able please stand.*
(Congregation responses are printed in bold type)

LBW = Green book
WOV = Blue book

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

We gather in the name of God, who created us, who was born to be with us, who guides us still.

Amen.

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God knows our hearts, the guilt we carry, the heartache that keeps us awake, the burdens we bear. God knows that “happy are they who are forgiven,” and so we confess in confidence of God’s forgiveness.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Good and gracious God,

We have sinned and fallen short of the good you desire for us and for all creation. We have seen the earth as resources to extract and forgotten to marvel at its beauty. We have doubted your ability to provide and hoarded more than we need. We have ignored the needs of the vulnerable, and when you called us to follow you to greater wonders, we remained where we were and clung to control. Forgive our sin and our selfishness. Draw us out of ourselves, more deeply into your love, and more fully into a world in need.

God knows our sin before we do and meets every confession with abundant grace. In Christ we are alive and completely forgiven. God’s goodness has the final word. May this gift renew our faith and lighten our load so that we are prepared to care for the world God so loves.

Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

LBW#370



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove,
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares,
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear,
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

+ 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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

+ CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



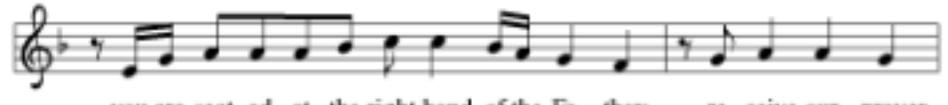
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



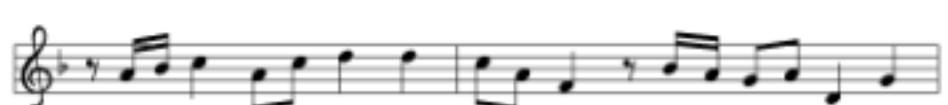
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

+ SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ...

Welcoming God, there is no one whom you have rejected forever. There is nothing we can do to make you close the door to our relationship with you. You are always ready and waiting to befriend us again. In moments when we need it most, help us to notice your presence. Send us out with a keen sense of who the world has rejected, that we might be agents of friendship who welcome them in. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

¹ 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." ² 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.'" ³ 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." ⁴ 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?" ⁵ 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.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ 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." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ 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." ¹² 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." ¹³ 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **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.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.

¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

What are you look - ing for? Come,
see, come and see. What are you
look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

+ GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ 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, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ 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?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ 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.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ 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.”

¹⁸ 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 ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ 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.” ²² 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. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ 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.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ 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?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ 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.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Tony Lippard

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace”

LBW#448

+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 INTERCESSION

God, our maker, healer, and friend, You are all in for us and all creation. You have given us a beautiful universe to explore. You have called each one of us by name. You never cease to offer life and forgiveness. There is no detail of life in this world that has escaped you. We pray now, trusting in your goodness and mercy.

God of all,

Meet us here.

God of all, we pray, trusting in your abundant grace. In your Holy name we pray.

Amen.

+ SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

ANTHEM

"Grace Ever Constant"

Chancel Choir

+ OFFERTORY SONG "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a tribute far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all!

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...

God who provides, we return to you a portion of all that you have given us. Bless and use these gifts, our hands, our hearts, our ministry, to care for the world you so love. Now prepare us to receive you at this table and again in the world beyond our doors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

+ THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen**

+ 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.

+ BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

LBW#104



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Setting 3 ELW

Music: All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-723066

This Week's Giving 03/08/2026		Needed Weekly	
Attendance 142			
Category	Amount	Per Spending Plan	Difference
Current	\$ 2,687.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 52)	\$ 81.00		
Benevolence	\$ 35.00		
World Hunger	\$ 50.00		
Total Current	\$ 2,853.00	\$ 8,251.00	\$ (5,398.00)
Tori Overcash Memorial (Fish Fry)	\$ 25.00		
Cruise In Sponsorship	\$ 1,185.00		
Rowan Helping Ministries (Lenten Service)	\$ 80.00		
Boy Scouts	\$ 25.00		
Facility Rental (Capital Improvement Fund)	\$ 6,268.89		
Cemetery	\$ 50.00		
Youth of Grace	\$ 25.00		
Total Deposit	\$ 10,511.89		

Scan here for online giving.



Prayer List

Immediate needs:

Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Emily Weddington, Monica Crossen

Community Concerns:

Scout & Skylar Harmon (*Fish Fry Recipients*), Kassana Alexander, Sandy Whitaker, Christine Whitaker (*Pastor Josh*), Craig Honbarger (*Irene Miller*), Linda Linker (*David Linker*)

Comfort:

Family and friends of Kent Houghton

Ongoing Needs:

John Miller, Bobby & Barbara Sloop, Mary Miller, Kari Overcash, Janice Gray, Janis Eury, Allen & Lynn Sloop, Sophie Hooks, Louise Vaughn, Judy Copeland, Diane Bouk, Arlene Wise, Hazel Miller, Ronnie Gorman, Earl Thomas, Jesse Martin, Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Irene Miller, Emily Weddington, Monica Crossen

Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders and families

<u>Serving 3/15/2026</u>		<u>Serving 3/22/2026</u>	
Organist	Becky Lippard	Organist	Teresa Yost
Children's Sermon	Randy Basinger	Children's Sermon	Alex Storey
Lector	Jamey Basinger	Lector	Debbie Parris
Communion Assistant	Dan Roseman, Pam Roseman	Communion Assistant	Dan Roseman, Gene Stirewalt
Acolyte	Clara Linker	Acolyte	Bayley Carter
Security Team	Michael Miller, Matt Sechler	Security Team	Duane Nolan, Randy Basinger
Sound System	Brody Linker	Sound System	Carson Hurst
Teller Team	Sarah Nolan, Aaron Linker, Mike Stout	Teller Team	Sarah Nolan, Aaron Linker, Mike Stout
Ushers	Ted Lotti, Kathryn Lotti & Bame Family	Ushers	Ted Lotti, Kathryn Lotti & Bame Family

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sam and Jean Sloop by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE will be removing all non-permanent items and cleaning up the cemetery on Saturday March 28th. If you have items that have been placed in the cemetery that you would like to keep, please have them removed. New items can be placed starting on March 29th.

MID WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE on Wednesday with the meal in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm and worship at 7:15pm in the Sanctuary.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP will begin in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm with the meal prepared by the Quilters of Grace. It will conclude in the Sanctuary with the stripping of the altar.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY. Each week in Lent, bring a canned food item to be donated to Rowan Helping Ministries at the end of Lent. How many food items can we donate and be all in for God.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS that are eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars need to direct those dollars before March 31. You can do that at www.thrivent.com or by calling 1-800-Thrivent (847-4836). If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Lynn Lippard, Marcus Reynolds, or David Linker.

LOVE OFFERING will be collected for Laura Reynolds beginning this Sunday, March 15th. We will continue to collect through Easter Sunday. Laura is currently receiving treatment for cancer. Collected funds will help with her medical bills and lost wages while she is out of work.

AMAZING GRACE SENIORS trip is Tuesday. Leaving church at 9:15am.

April 18th Yard Sale

Reservations

Yard Sale will be held at the shelter on April 18th from 7 am to 2pm. Rent a space in the lawn area for \$15 or \$20 for a space under the shelter. Rental space is 15 feet wide and includes one table. Shelter tables will be the picnic style tables. Lawn spaces will be fold out 8 foot rectangular tables. Set up day of event prior to 7am. Proceeds from the space rentals will be donated to Southside Baptist Community Outreach.

Name _____

Shelter space _____ \$20

Lawn space _____ \$15

Make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church with note for Yard Sale. Only 8 rental spaces are available under the shelter. Shelter spaces are reserved by first forms received. See Julie Heilig or Pam Roseman for further questions.