

Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd.
(704) 857-8641

Salisbury, NC 28147
www.grace-salisbury.com



2nd Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

+ Ministers: The People of Grace +

+ Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +

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+ 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

“All My Hope on God is Founded”

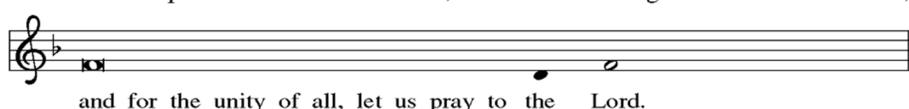
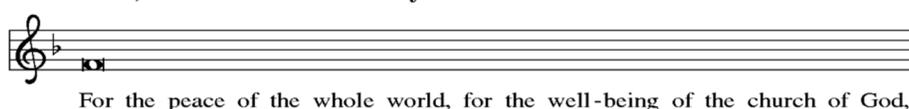
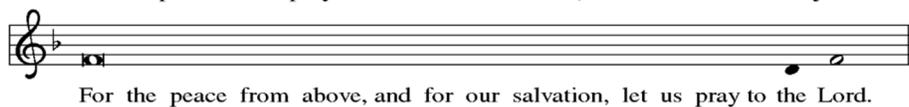
WOV#782

+ 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 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 ...

Faithful One, we fear what we do not know and hesitate to accept uncertainty. Yet you are faithful. You call us to where we are meant to be, even when we can't perceive it. Give us trust in your faithfulness, that we might answer your call with ready hearts.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World”



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

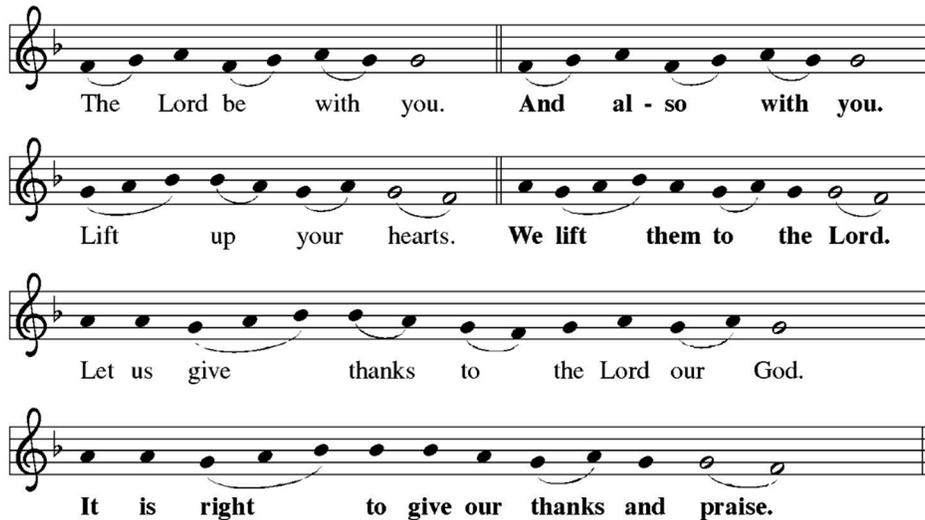


Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

+ PREFACE

We have to praise you, we have to thank you, God, because the whole universe is filled with your wonders. On this very day you overcome the powers of death and destruction forever, and so, in thankfulness, we join the song of the angels:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we remind each other and the world:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us, your gathered people, and on this meal, your gifts of bread and cup.

Through a holy mystery, let this become for us the body and blood of Christ. Let it remind us of the unending feast for which we are bound. Let it strengthen us, that we will become the body of Christ for the world you so love.

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.

+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Thanks be to God.

+ LAMB OF GOD

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.

DISTRIBUTION – All of God’s children are welcome at the table for communion. Come forward in two lines to receive the bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from a communion assistant.

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace.

Amen.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together....

God, you have revealed yourself to us again in the holy mystery of bread and cup.

Strengthen us by your presence, draw us closer to one another as the Body of Christ, and send us to reveal you in our all our words and ways. Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

As you have met God in this place, go now to meet God beyond this place. As you have received the love of Jesus, go now to give the love of Jesus. As the Creator has been all in for you, go now and be all in for the sake of the world. Gracious God, Parent, Sibling, and Spirit, bless you as you go. **Amen.**

+SENDING HYMN

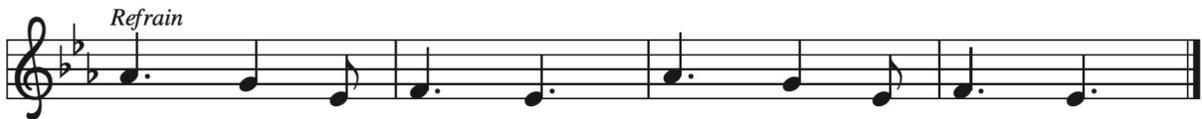
“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho-ly, great cloud of wit-ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash-ing of light-ning,
4 Walk-ing be-hind to hem my jour-ney, go-ing a-head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up-hold me:
es en-fold; proph-ets, a-pos-tles, an-gels wit-ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan-et:
light my way, and from be-neath, a-bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

+ 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

<u>Serving 3/1/2026</u>		<u>Serving 3/8/2026</u>	
Organist	Becky Lippard	Organist	Teresa Yost
Children's Sermon	Angela Lippard	Children's Sermon	Patsy Parnell
Lector	Alex Storey	Lector	Chris Sloop
Communion Assistants	Dan Roseman & Sheila Basinger	Communion Assistants	Dan Roseman & Pam Roseman
Acolyte	Olivia Miller	Acolyte	Bayley Carter
Security Team	Lynn Aldridge & Tony Sechler	Security Team	Jacob Stirewalt & Zach Moore
Sound System	Chad Rivers	Sound System	Hudson Sechler
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.

CIRCLE OF HOPE will meet on Thursday at 7:00pm in the parlor

SAVE THE DATE for the Myles Davis Pope Memorial 5K to help fund swim lessons. We are looking for volunteers and sponsors. Please see Morgan or Sonny Pope for more details.

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.

CRUISE-IN T SHIRTS available for preorder, outside after church, at a cost of \$20 each.

This Week's Giving 01/18/2026		Needed Weekly	
Attendance 180			
Category	Amount	Per Spending Plan	Difference
Current	\$ 5,681.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 61)	\$ 55.00		
Property Fund	\$ 125.00		
Altar Flowers	\$ 70.00		
Benevolence	\$ 280.00		
Souper Bowl Day of Caring (RHM)	\$ 496.30		
World Hunger	\$ 100.00		
Total Current	\$ 6,807.30	8,251.00	\$ (1,443.70)
Boy Scouts	\$ 100.00		
Facility Rental (Capital Improvement Fund)	\$ 120.00		
Youth of Grace	\$ 100.00		
Kids of Grace	\$ 140.00		
Total Deposit	\$ 7,267.30		

Scan here for
online giving.



Prayer List

Immediate needs:

Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds

Community Concerns:

Scout & Skylar Harmon (*Fish Fry Recipients*), Kassana Alexander, Jennifer Quick, Sandy Whitaker, Christine Whitaker (*Pastor Josh*), Kent Houghton (*Callie Miller*), Craig Honbarger (*Irene Miller*)

Comfort:

Family and friends of Tori Overcash

Family and friends of Cory Safriet

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

Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders and families