



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 30, 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

*What Wondrous Love is This?*

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*For God So Loved the World*

Joy Bells

### + 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.**

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+ 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, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*      ELW 807  
vss. 1 & 3

**+ 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**      *Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved*      ELW 602  
vss. 1 & 3

**+ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray, God of compassion,  
**you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our  
baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your  
love, 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 32

*Read responsively.*

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.  
**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up  
as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said,  
“I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress,  
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me  
with glad cries of deliverance.

**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

**Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those  
who trust in the Lord.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy,  
all you upright in heart.

**ANTHEM**

*Mercy Still*

Carol Swenson & Jim Borden

**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 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son

said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*The Day God Ran!*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

ELW 335

vss. 1, 2 & 4

## **+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Iona Worship Book*

**We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth,  
of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,**

born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.

He descended into the earth  
to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven,  
to be everywhere present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of eternal life.  
Amen.

#### **+ 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 God, We Praise Your Name*  
vss. 1 & 4

*ELW 414*

## + 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

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

ELW 773

### 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**

*My Life Flows On in Endless Song*  
vss. 1 & 4

*ELW 763*

**+ DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **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 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?*

### **Call Committee Progress Report**

The Call Committee had its third meeting on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, to discuss roles, communication, and logistics. We set up a Google Drive for sharing information and discussed processes for conducting interviews and updating the congregation on our activities.

We also spent considerable time drafting preliminary interview questions for pastoral candidates. These questions cover areas around getting to know each candidate, what led them to ministry, their personal leadership style, strengths and weaknesses, etc., as well as questions designed to learn more about how they would interact with our congregation and help us achieve Oak Grove's mission.

Our next step will be a practice interview with Pastor Lee. We hope to receive a list of interview candidates from the ELCA sometime after Easter, at which point we will begin scheduling candidates for first-round interviews.

### **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

*(Continued...)*

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](http://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 **tomorrow, 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](mailto:jbotsie02@aol.com) or call her at (612) 600-7636. Thanks so much.

## **Peace and Justice Team**

A new ministry opportunity is being formed at Oak Grove Lutheran Church. Please consider being a part of the *Peace and Justice Team!* At the close of our forum on Christian nationalism, someone asked if the congregation could have more opportunities to learn and share about justice issues today. This desire is also shared by God, who in Micah 6:8 says to us, *"What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God."*

Some members of Oak Grove have already stepped forward to be a part of this ministry. Please join them in this important work for God and others! If you would like to be a part of the team, please contact Pastor Lee or Mary Beth Mohn.

## **It's a Wrap!**

2024–2025 Winter Warming Garden has come to a close. It warms my heart, and others' hands and heads and I couldn't be more grateful for all the support this Mission has received. We have distributed **856 bags** this past season bringing us to a total of **1784 bags**, many of which had two items in them!!

Crafters: Please continue to make items and remember there is still a large supply of yarn available for you to use.

Supporters: Please continue to supply yarn and gallon-size Ziploc (not slider) bags.

NEW for next year: We will be setting up a few sessions in the fall during coffee hour to ready the bags for the fence. If you can tie a knot you are invited. Watch for details in September. THANK YOU!

As always, see Kathie Curry with any questions or if you would like supplies.

## **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.

## **OAK GROVE EVENTS THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, March 30**

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

### **Monday, March 31**

Easter flower orders due

### **Tuesday, April 1**

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting, Library
- 10:00 am Care Club, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 pm Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 6:30 pm Lydia-Ruth Circle, Fireside Room

### **Wednesday, April 2**

- 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, April 3**

### **Friday, April 4**

Offices Closed

- 5:00 pm Crafters Group

### **Saturday, April 5**

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Library
- 9:00 am Joy Bells Practice, Sanctuary
- 10:30 am Transplaining with India Miller

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Wednesdays: April 9** — Lenten Worship, 7 pm

**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 30**

**Assisting Minister:** Lisa Hoyne

**Scripture Reader:** Mike Tveite

**Communion Servers:** Scott Olson and Barb Olson

**Worship Leaders for next Sunday, April 6**

**Assisting Minister:** Carol Swenson

**Scripture Reader:** Carol Tveite

**Communion Servers:** Nickie Wigdahl and John Wigdahl

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

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

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*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.

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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

## Staff

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