

# First Sunday in Lent

To the LORD I cry aloud, and he  
answers me from his holy hill.

Psalm 3:4

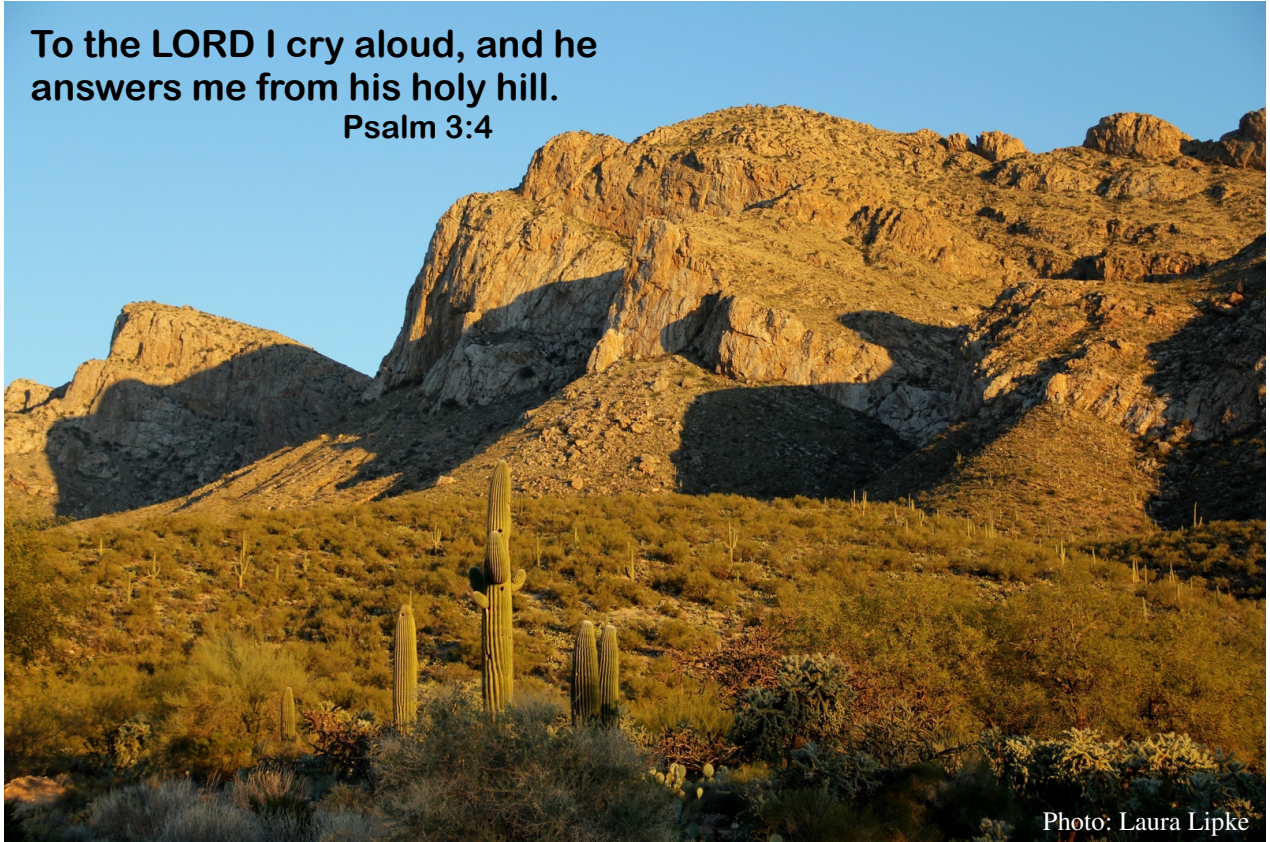


Photo: Laura Lipke

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
February 26, 2012



# PRESERVICE MUSIC

7:45 AM

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**  
*Setting by Valerie Floeter*

10:00 AM

**My Song is Love Unknown**  
*Setting by Michael Burkhardt*

## WELCOME

## LENTEN GATHERING RITE: REMEMBER YOUR LOVE

*As individual Christians gather for public worship, we are united by our common sin and the necessity of repentance and faith. Much like the opening hymn and canticles of our traditional Liturgy, this Lenten Gathering Rite unites us in sung refrains and spoken responses.*

### ENTRANCE SONG

*The cantor/choir introduces the refrain. The congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated.*



### Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear?  
The Lord is my life and my refuge, when I call God hears.

#### ***Refrain***

If you dwelt, O Lord, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand?  
But with you there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand.

#### ***Refrain***

O Lord, hear the sound of my call and answer me.  
My heart cries out for your presence; it is you I seek.

#### ***Refrain***

### INVOCATION

[M] In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] **Amen.** (*spoken*)

[M] The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

[C] **And also with you.**


## CONFESSION - LORD, HAVE MERCY - ABSOLUTION

[M] As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us confess our sin and ask the Lord for pardon and strength:

[C] **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Cantor: 1. Lord Jesus, obedient in the desert:  
2. Christ Jesus, the promise of salvation:  
3. Lord Jesus, the flood of living water:

*After each stanza,  
follow the printed  
music below*



1. Lord, have mer - cy.      Lord, have mer - cy.  
2. Christ, have mer - cy.      Christ, have mer - cy.  
3. Lord, have mer - cy.      Lord, have mer - cy.

[M] God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] **Amen.** (*spoken*)

*All sing the refrain once more.*



Re - mem-ber your love and your faith-ful-ness, O Lord.



Re - mem-ber your peo-ple and have mer-cy on us, Lord.

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## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:00 AM)

[M] In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought these children to be baptized. Jesus told us: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart (+) to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

*The pastor applies water and says:*

Flynn Matthew Stricker, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Elisabeth Snow Stricker, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made dear children of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your lives. Peace be with you.

## EXHORTATION

[M] Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Flynn and Elisabeth may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

[C] **Yes, as God gives me strength.**

[M] Let us pray:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Flynn and Elisabeth and grant them a rich measure of your Spirit that they may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

[C] **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M] The Lord be with you.

[C] **And also with you.**

[M] Let us pray. Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

**Genesis 22:1-18**

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take our son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father

Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a

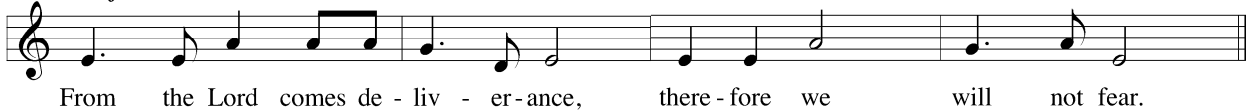
burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.” The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son,

your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

## PSALM OF THE DAY

## Psalm 3

### Refrain



### Psalm Tone



1. O LORD, how many are my foes!  
How many rise up against me!  
Many are saying of me,  
“God will not deliver him.”
2. But you are a shield around me, O LORD;  
you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.  
To the LORD I cry aloud,  
and he answers me from his holy hill.
3. I lie down and sleep;  
I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.  
I will not fear the tens of thousands  
drawn up against me on ev’ry side.
4. Arise, O LORD!  
Deliver me, O my God!  
From the LORD comes deliverance.  
May your blessing be on your people.
5. **Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### Refrain

### Refrain

## SECOND LESSON

## Romans 8:31-39

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or

hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

## Matthew 4:10b

[M] It is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:12-15

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into

Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



## APOSTLES' CREED

**[C] I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**BE SEATED**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**If God Himself Be for Me**  
*Christian Worship #419*

## SERMON

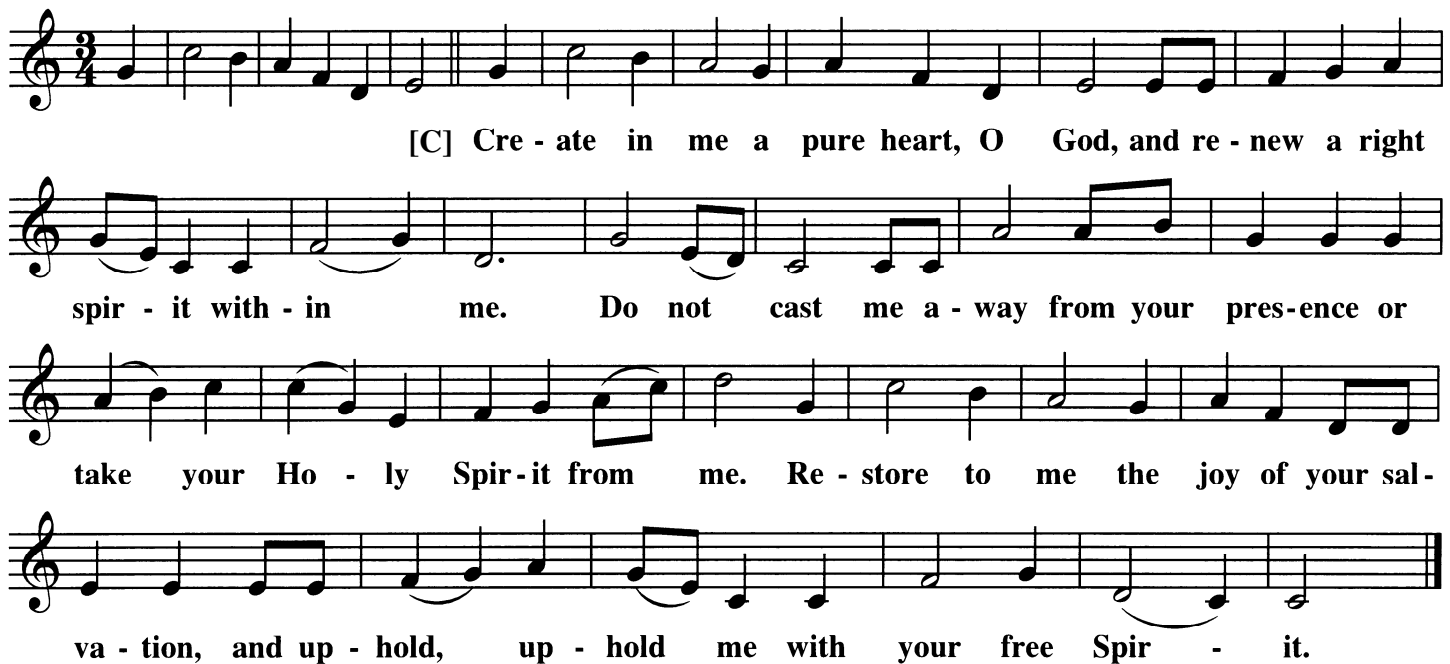
**Psalm 3**  
**From the Lord Comes Deliverance**

O LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him." But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again,

because the LORD sustains me. I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side. Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.

**STAND**

*Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction.*



[C] Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or  
take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal -  
va - tion, and up - hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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#### **BE SEATED**

**OFFERING** *Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.*

*Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!*

#### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**7:45 AM**

**O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come**

*Setting by Valerie Floeter*

**10:00 AM**

**What Grace is This**

*By G.A. Hennig*

#### **STAND**

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH — LENT**

[M] Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

[C] **We confess that without your love we are lost.**

[M] Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

[C] **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

[M] Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

[C] **Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

[M] Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

[C] **Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

[M] Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

[M] Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

[C] **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

[C] **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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## **HYMN**

**Love Divine, All Love Excelling**  
*Christian Worship #365*

*STAND*

[M] Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

[M] The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

[C] **Amen.**



BE SEATED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing  
*Christian Worship #111*

POSTLUDE

7:45 AM

Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing  
*Setting by Valerie Floeter*

10:00 AM

Prelude & Fugue in F Major  
*By J.S. Bach*

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Preacher ..... Pastor Colin Rieke, *Grace’s Mission Pastor to Vail*  
Worship Leader ..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke (10:00 AM)  
Accompanists ..... Gloria Gerds, Amanda Schulz, Elaine Goldie (7:45 AM)  
Tina Christianson (10:00 AM)  
Cantors ..... Johneth Myrmo (7:45 AM)  
Jesse Huggins & Bill Rauh (10:00 AM)  
Sound & Recording Tech ..... Jeremy Snavelly (10:00 AM)

Call Declined

After prayer and careful consideration of his Divine Call to serve as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in North Richland Hills, and of his current Call to Grace, Pastor Kassulke has decided to decline the Call to Texas and to continue serving at Grace. He would like to express his thanks to everyone who shared their thoughts and especially for the prayers on his behalf and on behalf of the congregations involved. Please continue to pray for the gospel ministry wherever it is conducted.



Grace-Vail Fourth Service – March 11 at 9:00 AM

The fourth service at Grace-Vail, our second worship site, will be Sunday, March 11, at Cottonwood Elementary School (9950 E. Rees Loop). Grace-Vail will conduct weekly worship services beginning that Sunday and leading up to the “LAUNCH” Service on Sunday, April 1. All Grace members are invited and encouraged to participate in worship services at either or both locations. Many members of Grace have already helped get the word out about Grace-Vail in a variety of ways. Take a look at the display case in the courtyard to see what they’ve been doing.

In preparation for our fourth service at Grace-Vail, we will be canvassing again Saturday, March 10. This is a great way to share information about our second site and also a way to share the love of Christ. We will be meeting at Cottonwood Elementary School (9950 E. Rees Loop) at **9:00 AM Saturday, March 10.**



**830 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719**

**Phone: 623-6633  
Fax: 623-1514**

**Grace Website:  
GraceTucsonWELS.com**

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Cora Kosanke  
office@gracetucsonwels.com

**Pastors:**  
Ronald G. Koehler III  
revrgk3@gracetucsonwels.com  
Nathan P. Kassulke  
revnpk@gracetucsonwels.com  
Samuel M. Clemons  
revsmc@gracetucsonwels.com  
Colin M. Rieke  
revcmr@gracetucsonwels.com

**Counselor:**  
Cinda Drescher  
cinda@gracetucsonwels.com

### **To Aid You in Worship...**

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. ASK A GREETER OR USHER FOR A COPY.
- *For those with young children:* A private Mother's Room is located across the courtyard in the Ladies' Restroom. Parents of young children may also use the Child Care Room in the basement at any time to quiet and care for them (the service can be heard in both locations).
- Sermon copies & service CDs are available in the narthex.

## **Welcome to Grace!**

**Our mission at Grace** is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

### **Baptisms**

Flynn & Elisabeth Stricker, son and daughter of Matt and Andrea Stricker, born on January 25, will be made forgiven children of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in 10:00 AM worship this morning.

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#### ***Read Ahead for Next Sunday:***

Genesis 28:10-17  
Romans 5:1-11  
Mark 8:31-38

#### ***Next Sun. Sermon Text & Theme:***

Mark 8:31-38  
*No Cross, No Crown*

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### **You Are Invited**

You are invited to a coffee fellowship following 10:00 AM worship today hosted by Ron & Kathy Silver. Please join us in the courtyard.

### **Christian Fellowship Group**

Christian Fellowship Group will meet on Saturday, March 10, at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship hall. Grace's "Nutrition Guru", Linda Morris, will be the guest speaker and present on "Healthy Eating & Nutrition." Please come for coffee and healthy snacks! *The Christian Fellowship Group provides people 55 and older with an opportunity to enjoy the company of others on a very informal basis.*

### **Sunday Morning Worship CDs**

Audio CDs of today's 10:00 AM worship service are available for pick-up in the main entryway of church under the glass bulletin board. Printed sermon copies are available there as well. You can also visit our Grace website at [www.GraceTucsonWELS.com](http://www.GraceTucsonWELS.com). On the website, you can watch service videos and follow along with the service folder, hear audio sermons, read or print sermons, work through some online Bible studies, and find current schedules and information. Some website items are only available to Grace members through your personal login, so be sure to sign up if you have not done so already.

### **Thank You's**

The Hawkins family would like to thank everyone at Grace for all your prayers and comforting words during Bruce's illness as well as prayers and support we received after his passing. The outpouring of kindness we received is amazing and helps comfort us all during this most difficult time. Faith won the fight!

Bill Rauh would also like to thank you for your cards, calls, prayers, and concerns for his radiation therapy. He is feeling fine.

## Today

- Worship Services..... 7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School..... 8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class ..... 8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
  - *The Life of Christ: The Calling of the Twelve* (F. Hall)... 9:00a
  - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office) .... 9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*..... 9:00a
- Coffee Fellowship following 10 AM Worship .....
- WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study..... 7:00p

## Monday

- Bible Study at Vail Golf Club: *Book of Acts*.....9:30a
- English as a Second Language Classes .....6:30p
- Bible Study at the Rieke's: *Book of Acts* ..... 7:00p

## Tuesday

- Handbells Practice in the Church Basement .....5:30p
- English as a Second Language Classes .....6:30p

## Wednesday

- Midweek Lenten Worship** ..... 10:00a
- Wind Ensemble Practice: *Brass* .....5:30p
- Lenten Supper in the Fellowship Hall** .....6:00-6:45p
- Midweek Lenten Worship** ..... 7:00p

## Thursday

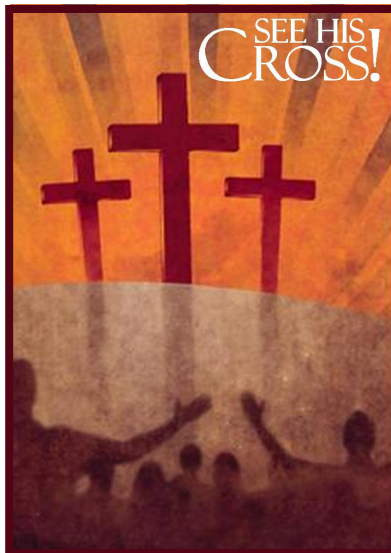
- Women's Bible Class: *Prayer* ..... 9:00a
- Worship Choir .....6:30p
- Boy & Girl Pioneers**.....6:30p

## Sunday

- Worship Services/Communion ..... 7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School..... 8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class ..... 8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
  - *The Life of Christ: The Calling of the Twelve* (F. Hall)... 9:00a
  - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office) .... 9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*..... 9:00a
- Coffee Fellowship following 10 AM Worship .....
- Thrivent Lunch/Presentation at the Marriott**..... 11:45a
- WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study..... 7:00p

## LWMS Summer Convention

It's not too early to think about the annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) convention, which will be held this summer in Winston-Salem, NC, the fourth weekend in June. Information is on the website ([www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org)) and you can save \$20 if you register by April 2. Talk to Dorothy Rauh if you have any questions (296-8840).



## SEE HIS CROSS! SURPRISING WORDS FROM OUR SAVIOR'S PASSION

God's plan for our salvation was always clear. Jesus had to make the journey to the cross and resurrection in order to forgive our sins. This Lenten season, follow Jesus on that journey from Ash Wednesday to his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. See how each event along the Savior's path fulfilled God's plan.

Midweek 2	February 29	"It's No Secret!"
Worship Times:	10:00 AM and 7:00 PM	
Lenten Supper:	6:00 PM	

## Lenten Suppers

You are invited to join us for supper at 6:00 PM before the evening Lenten service. We still need someone to host the March 7<sup>th</sup> meal (individuals, families, groups, or any combination). Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you'd like to help in this way! There is also an additional sheet with more information about hosting a meal.

## Financial Seminar and Lunch

Next Sunday, March 4, representatives from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be hosting a financial seminar and lunch at the Marriott Hotel just a block from Grace-University. It will begin at 11:45 AM. The theme is *Scarcity to Security to Generosity*. Along with lunch, there will be a brief presentation to all attendees, then we will be split into three groups: age 25-45—*More Than Money Matters*, 46-59—*My Retirement Matters*, 60 plus—*My Legacy Matters*. Those sessions are planned to be 45 minutes long. Availability is limited and you are asked to register through Thrivent.

You may also register online at <https://service.thrivent.com/forms/events/find.php?st=3#events>. Scroll down to the workshops listed in Tucson on March 4 and click on the "Details" button of the workshop you would like to attend (see the categories above by age group). You may also email Irene Madrid, Thrivent's Office Professional, at [irene.madrid@thrivent.com](mailto:irene.madrid@thrivent.com) or call her at 520-529-1589 to RSVP. This is a free service provided to you by Grace and Thrivent and there will be NO selling of products. This is designed solely to help you manage your finances and exercise good management of the gifts God has given you.

## Tuition Tax Credit Donations

As you prepare your 2011 tax return in the coming months, don't forget about the Arizona Tuition Tax Credit. State law allows you to make a donation in support of Lutheran education and to claim the same amount as a credit on your state tax return. Basically, this means that you get to decide how money that would otherwise be paid in taxes gets used. A donation made before April 15 and before you file your taxes may be claimed on the 2011 return, so you can also determine your tax liability before making a donation. Donations are made through a Student Tuition Organization (STO) such as the HELP Scholarship Foundation ([www.helpscholarships.org](http://www.helpscholarships.org)). You may even recommend your donation for a specific student. Donations are eligible for the tax credit up to \$500 for a single person or \$1000 for a married couple in 2011, with a slight increase to \$503 and \$1006 in 2012. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

## Mexican Dinner—Friday, March 23



The *Women of Grace* invite everyone to join them Friday, March 23, between 4:30-6:30 PM for the annual Mexican Dinner.

*The menu includes:* Sour Cream Enchiladas, Beef Tacos, Refried Beans, Assorted Cakes, Coffee, Tea, & Milk.

Look for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board next week in the Fellowship Hall if you'd like to help.

## Apache Clothing Drive

The Christian Fellowship Group (CFG) is sponsoring an on-going clothing drive for the Apache Indians. Gently used or new clothing for all ages is accepted. The first donation period will run March through May and will be collected at the Counseling Building (white building in the church parking lot) after the early and late services each Sunday. Other times may be scheduled through the Weirs, Hansons, Rauhs, Cinda Drescher or Geri DeRosa if Sundays aren't convenient. The first delivery to the Apaches will be made in late May, early June. More information will be available in the March newsletter. You may also call the Weirs (795-0062), Hansons (269-7602), Rauhs (296-8840), or Cinda Drescher & Geri DeRosa (615-6059) for more details.