

# *Lenten Service Series*



## **GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*A Matthew 25 and Stephen Ministry Congregation*

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

**March 9, 2025**

**First Sunday in Lent**

Rev. Robin Palmer – Pastor

Jamie Clay – Director of Music Ministries

Brenda Davis - Organist

Martie Kullman – Handbell Choir Director



# GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



March 9, 2025  
First Sunday in Lent

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## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

The People Gather and Welcome One Another

[Gracious God, We love to ask you questions. We love to throw our wonderings at the sky, to bring our curiosity to your feet, to examine, beseech, and imagine all day long. But when the answers come, we don't always like what we hear. Awaken a curiosity in us. Awaken a penchant for listening, and make room in our spirits for your Word to land. With hope we question, we wonder, we dream, we listen. Amen.]

Prelude "Let Not Your Heart be Troubled" John Petersen

Welcome and Invitation to Share in Our Life Together (Please sign and pass attendance register)

Introit "Call to Lent" arr: J. Jerome Williams

Call to Worship

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**Who is my neighbor? How can I help? What do I have to learn?  
Where is God in it all?**

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**So may we listen. May we learn. May we stay curious, and may we  
look for God.**

This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

✠ Hymn No. 87 "The Glory of These Forty Days"

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass.**

✠ *Rise in body or in spirit*

# A Time of Silence for Private Confession

♯ Hymn

“Kyrie”

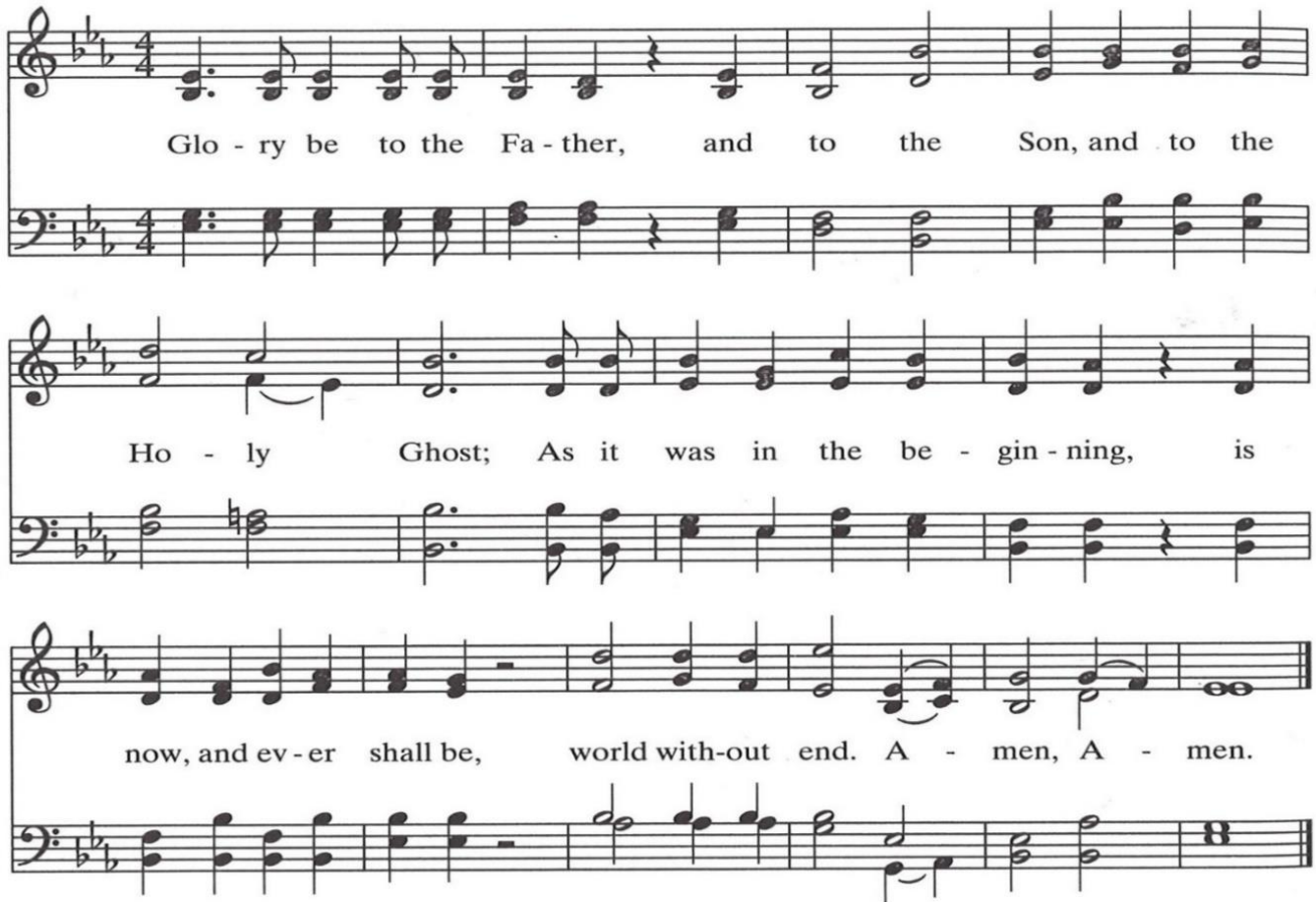


♯ Assurance of Forgiveness

Hymn No. 579

“Glory Be to the Father”

Henry W. Greatorex, 1851



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is

now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Lesson	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Bible Page 180, O.T.
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16		Bible Page 548, O.T.
Anthem	"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"	Carl F. Mueller
Children's Time		
Gospel Lesson	Luke 10:25-37	Bible Page 71, N.T.
Sermon	"Stranger and Neighbor"	Rev. Robin Palmer
Mediative Music	"Take My Life"	John W. Petersen

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### ✠ Affirmation of Faith

Church, if God asked you, "Who is your neighbor?" what would you say?

**We would say, every child, every person, every weeping willow, and every morning lark. Every freckled face, every wrinkled pair of hands,**

**every tail-wagging dog, and every crisp ripe apple. We would say, we are connected—to one another, to all of God’s creation. There are no strangers in God’s house. We are all family here.**

I think God would delight in that answer. For it is said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

**with all your soul,**

with all your strength,

**with all your mind,**

and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

**We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.**

✠ Hymn No. 81

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

(The congregation is invited to respond with “**Lord, hear our prayer.**”)

Call to Prayer

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.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer (Traditional version)

Hymnal, Page 16

The Offering

Offertory

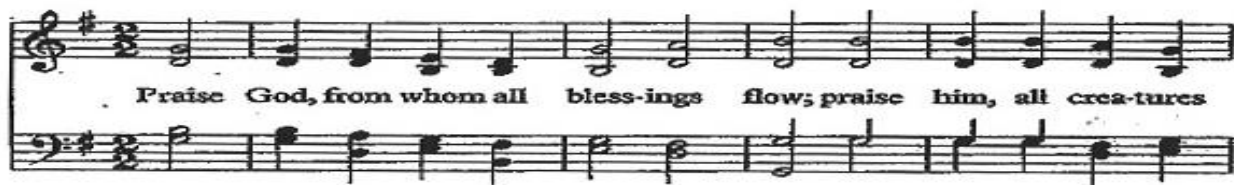
“Praise Him”

Donnie Harper

✠ Hymn No. 592

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”  
(next page)

## Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674  
MUSIC: Atr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD 100th  
EM

### ✠ Offertory Prayer

### ✠ The Peace

Since God in Christ has given us peace, let us share that peace in the whole family of faith. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.** (Share some sign of God's peace with those near you.)

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### ✠ Hymn No. 414

"As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought"

### ✠ Call to Service

Family of faith, when we set limits on love,

**God loves extravagantly.**

When we forget that we are neighbors,

**God claims us as God's own.**

When we judge, hold back, or harm,

**God surrounds us with grace.**

There is nothing we can do or leave undone  
that could separate us from the love of God.

**This is the good news of the gospel. Alleluia! Amen.**

### ✠ Benediction

"Lamb of God"

David Isele

### ✠ Postlude

"Triumphant Finale"

Thomas Bliss

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OUR LITURGIST TODAY** is Jim Hutcheson.

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED TODAY** following the worship service.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING TODAY** in the Fellowship Hall immediately following congregational refreshments.

**LENTEN MORNING PRAYERS** – the sanctuary will be open for Lenten morning prayers on March 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9. An Elder will be opening the building and a sheet of prayers will be provided for silent prayer.

**ROUNDTABLE AND TEAM MEETINGS** will be next Sunday, March 16, immediately following worship.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Robin is in the office Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Annette is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am until 2:00pm.

**ST. ELIZABETH FOOD DRIVE:** St. Elizabeth CPCA is holding a food drive to restore their food pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items and place them in the basket located in the Narthex.

**LECTIONARY READINGS** for Next Week:

Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18

Ps. 27

Phil. 3:17 – 4:1

Luke 13:31-35

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## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

**Today, Mar 9**  
9:30–10:30 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY in LENT  
Sunday School  
Worship (in-person and livestreamed)\*\*

**Tuesday, Mar 11**  
12:00 p.m.

Al-Anon (in-person)

Donate to Grace Presbyterian now!



**Wednesday, Mar 12**  
6:30 p.m.

Handbell Choir rehearsal

**Thursday Mar 13**  
4:00 p.m.

Barbershop Quartet rehearsal

**Sunday, Mar 16**  
9:30–10:30 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
12:00 p.m.

SECOND SUNDAY in LENT  
Sunday School  
Worship (in-person and livestreamed)\*\*  
Roundtable and Team Meetings



**Grace Presbyterian Church, USA is a Matthew 25 Congregation** currently focused on Eradicating Systemic Poverty - one of the Core Pillars. We support the following ministries: Enable of Madison County, Presbyterian Home for Children, and St. Elizabeth Food Bank. The produce from the Harvest of Grace Community Garden is donated to the hungry of Madison County. Visit <https://www.pcusa.org/matthew25> to learn more.

**\*\* Hearing devices, large print bulletins, and large print hymnals are available upon request. After the service, copies of sermons are available upon request.**

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## The Glory of These Forty Days

ERHALT UNS, HERR LM

Gregory the Great (540-604)  
Trans. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543  
Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725

1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days We  
 2. A - lone and fast - ing, Mo - ses saw The  
 3. So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, De -  
 4. Then grant that we like them be true, Con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; For Christ, by whom all  
 lov - ing God who gave the law; And to E - li - jah,  
 liv - ered from the li - on's might; And John, the Bride - groom's  
 sumed in fast and prayer with You; Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, Him - self has fast - ed and has prayed,  
 fast - ing, came The steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 friend, be - came The her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 with Your grace, And give us joy to see Your face.

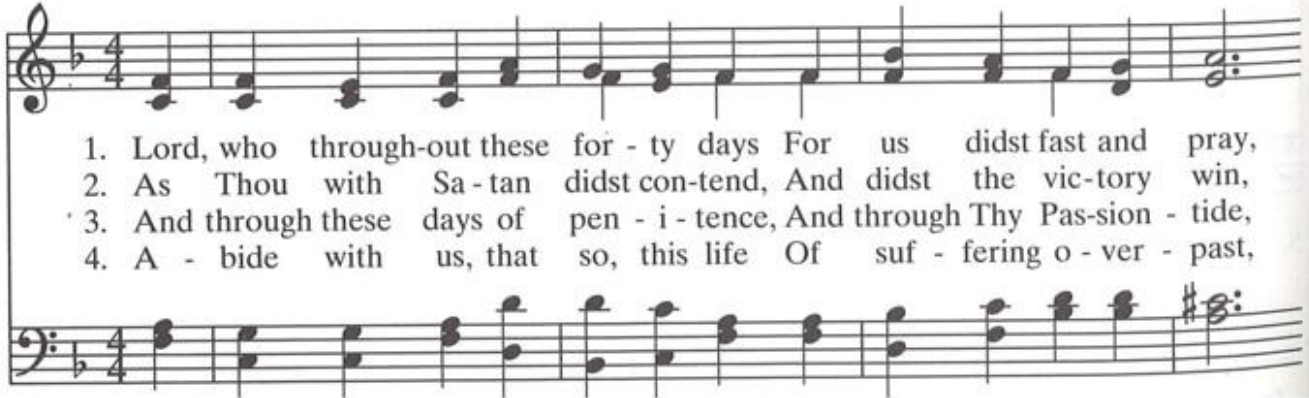
Text: From the *English Hymnal*, 1906. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

# 81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN CM

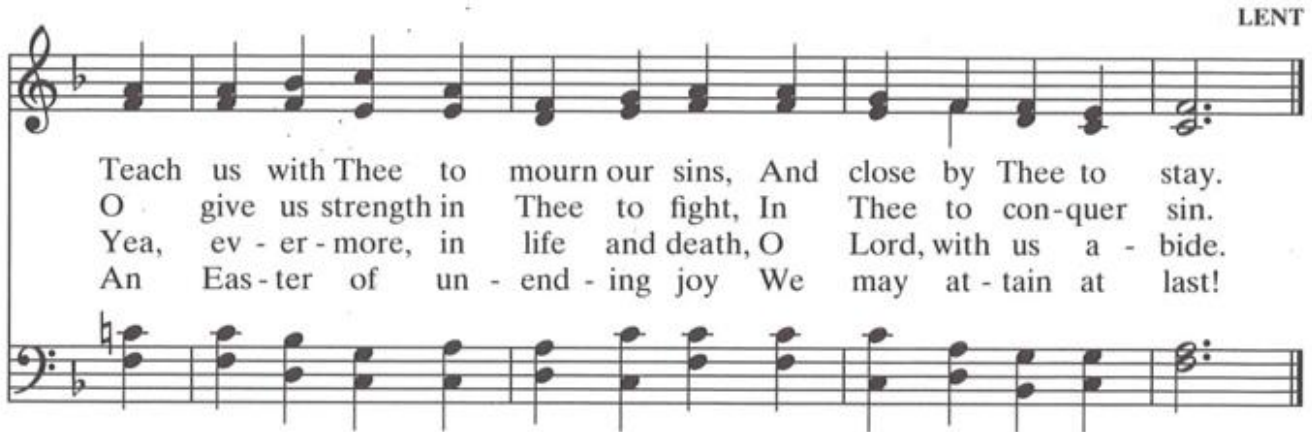
Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Day's Psalter, 1562



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days For us didst fast and pray,  
 2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, And didst the vic-tory win,  
 3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy Pas-sion - tide,  
 4. A - bid with us, that so, this life Of suf - fering o - ver - past,

LENT



Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.  
 O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con-quer sin.  
 Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bid.  
 An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

John 1:29

## 414 As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FOREST GREEN CMD

English folk melody

Frank von Christenson, 1960; alt.

Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. As those of old their first - fruits brought Of vine - yard, flock, and field  
 2. A world in need now sum - mons us To la - bor, love, and give,  
 3. With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust We bring our best to You,

To God, the giv - er of all good, The source of boun - teous yield,  
 To make our life an of - fer - ing To God that all may live.  
 Not just to serve Your cause, but share Your love with neigh - bors too.

So we to - day our first - fruits bring, The wealth of this good land:  
 The church of Christ is call - ing us To make the dream come true:  
 O God who gave Your - self to us In Je - sus Christ Your Son,

Of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, Of mind and heart and hand.  
 A world re - deemed by Christ - like love, All life in Christ made new.  
 Help us to give our - selves each day Un - til life's work is done.