

Lent 3
March 20, 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Making Christ Known to all Through Grace

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln NE 68502 + 402-474-1505 + www.egrace.org

Network: GLC-Balcony

Password: AlphaOmega

WELCOME to worship

Grace Lutheran Church, a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been at the heart of the faith community in Lincoln since 1889.

- We follow our mission: "Making Christ known to all through Grace."
- We celebrate our purpose: "That by God's grace we have been gathered to worship, called to witness, and sent to serve."
- We seek our vision: "To become a church with a passion for fostering a welcoming community that strives for peace and a sense of belonging."

Thank you for worshipping with us today and join our community at any time!

WORSHIP notes

Remember your response is marked in **BOLD** font.

Hearing enhancement devices are available near the welcome table. Ask an usher to assist you.

Restrooms are located next to our chapel on the other side of the courtyard.

Masks are no longer required or recommended for everyone during worship. If you need to or want to wear a mask then please do so.

INTRODUCTION to worship

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down!

The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land", African American spiritual, re-harm. A. Melang-Thoren, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, **we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✠ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 618

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

CWM Rhondda

John Hughes, 1873-1932
arr. A. Melang-Thoren, 2022

Voice

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, with lyrics: 'Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this bar - ren land. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing wa - ters flow; When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'I am weak, but you - are - might - y; hold me with your - pow'r - ful hand. let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through. death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side.'. The third staff continues with lyrics: 'Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me now and ev - er - more, Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer, shield me with your might - y arm, Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es I will raise for - ev - er more,'. The fourth staff is a repeat of the previous line, with lyrics: 'feed me now - and - ev - er - more. shield me with your might - y arm. I will raise for - ev - er - more.'. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Gmaj7, E-7, A-7, D7, Gmaj7, E-7, D7, Gmaj7 on the first staff; E-7, B-7, A-7, D7, E-7, A-7, D7, Gmaj7 on the second staff; A-7, D7, Gmaj7, E-7, Gmaj7, A-7, B-7 on the third staff; and E-7, A-7, D7, Gmaj7 on the fourth staff. A bracket labeled 'Verses 1 & 2.' spans the last two staves, with 'A-7' and 'D7,b9' indicated below the notes.

Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this bar - ren land.
O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing wa - ters flow;
When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but you - are - might - y; hold me with your - pow'r - ful hand.
let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through.
death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side.

Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me now and ev - er - more,
Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer, shield me with your might - y arm,
Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es I will raise for - ev - er more,

feed me now - and - ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more.

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

Kyrie

1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SIT

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

A reading from Isaiah:

- ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-4

A responsive reading of Psalm 63:

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as
in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and
your glory.**

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴**So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-5, 12-13

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is
our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

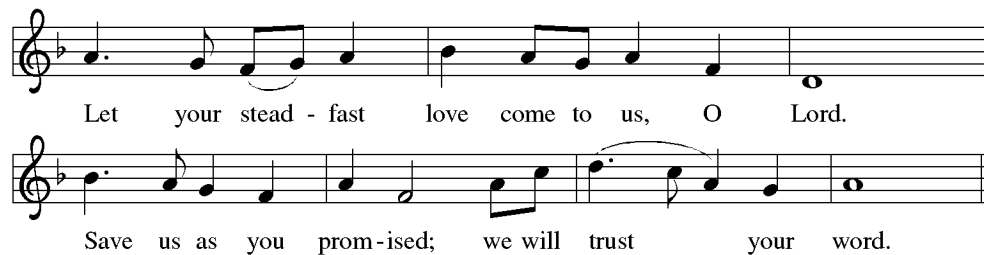
¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the
cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in
the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they
drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God
was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness....¹²So if you
think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is
not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your
strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to
endure it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lenten Acclamation



Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” ⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

SIT

SERMON

STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY (Congregation sings vrs. 1, bass solo, congregation sings vrs. 2, trumpet solo, congregation sings vrs. 3.)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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 to the living,
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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing, especially those we name before you now... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the advocacy efforts of this congregation: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

SIT

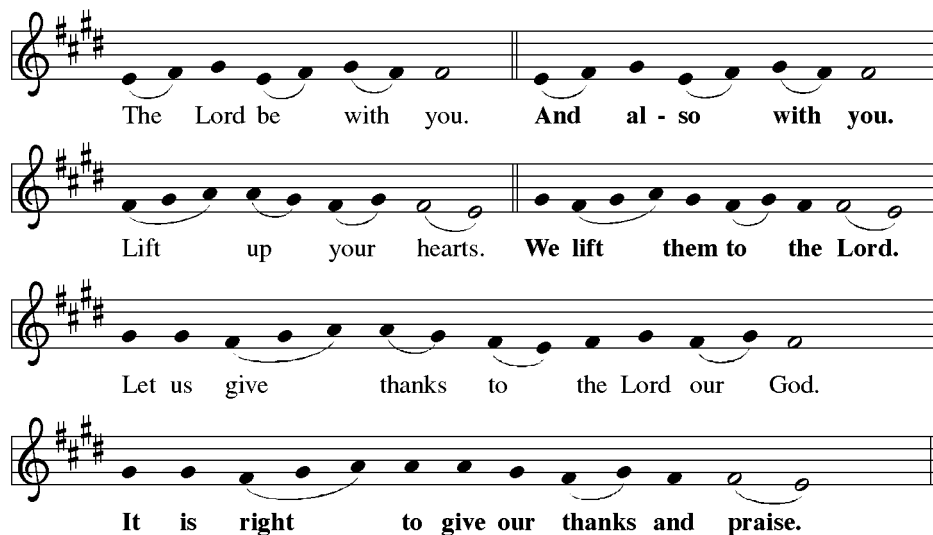
MUSIC OFFERING “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”, African American spiritual, re-harm. A. Melang-Thoren, 2019

STAND

OFFERING PRAYER

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

DIALOG



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always 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. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

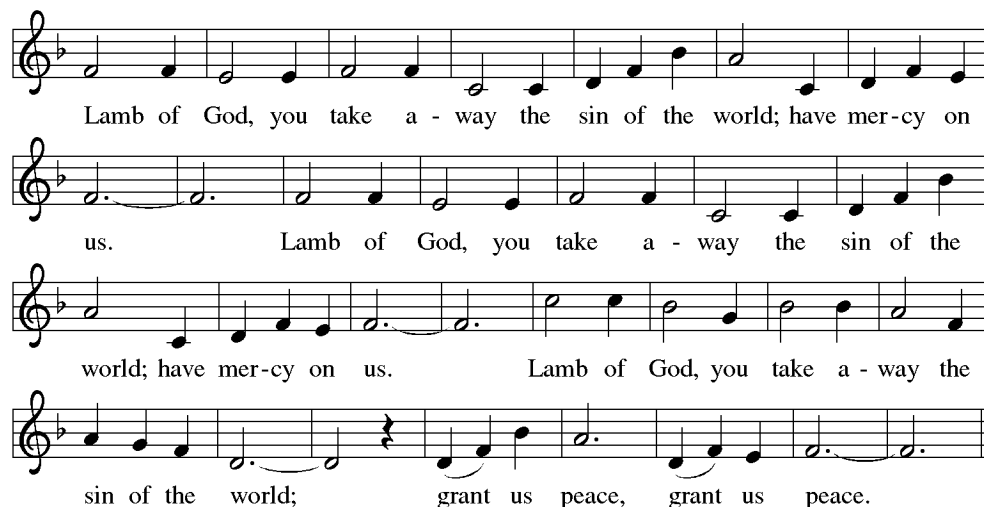
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

SIT

AGNUS DEI

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, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION

All are welcome. Come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the wafer (Body of Christ). Gluten free is available upon request. Move to the next station to receive the cup (Blood of Christ). Grape juice is available upon request. Return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Please dispose your used cup into the basket at the head of the side aisle.

COMMUNION HYMN (Congregation sings vrs. 1-2, bass solo, congregation sings vrs. 3-4, trumpet solo, congregation sings vrs. 7.)

ELW 322

Oh, Love, How Deep

Deo Gracias

English ballad, 15th century
reharm, A. Melang-Thoren, 2019

Voice

Chords: C-7,13 G-7 C-7,13 G-7 Ebmaj7 F7 G-7 C-7

1. Oh, love, how deep an how broad, how high, be -
 2. God sent no angel to our race, of -
 3. For us bap - tized, for us he bore his
 4. For us he prayed, for us he taught; for
 5. For us by vic - ked - ness be - trayed, for
 6. For us he rose from death a - gain; for
 7. All Glo - ry to our Lord and God for

3 C-7 Ebmaj7 F-7,9 D7,b9 G7,b9 C-7 Abmaj7 Bb7

yond all thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 high - er or of low - er place, that wore the robe of
 ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
 us his dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and
 us in cro - wn of thorns ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 us he went on high to reign; for us he sent his
 love so deep, so high, so broad: the Tri - in - ty whom

6 G-7 Abmaj7 Ebmaj7 F-7 D7,b9 G7,b9 C-7 D7,b9 G7,b9 C-7

God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
 cross and death; for us he gave his dy - ing breath.
 Spir - it here to guide, to streng - then, and to cheer.
 we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

STAND

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. **Amen.**

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 323

God Loved the World

Rockingham Old

Edward Miller, 1731-1807
reharm. A. Melang-Thoren, 2019

Voice

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1 through 6, the second staff contains measures 7 through 12, and the third staff contains measures 13 through 16. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: (Dmaj7) A7,b9, Dmaj7, B-7, F#-7, Gmaj7, B-7 for the first staff; E-7, A7,b9, B-7, F#-7, E7, F#-7 for the second staff; Gmaj7, E-7, A7,b9, Dmaj7 for the third staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines.

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

lost to save, that all who would in him be - lieve should
suf - fered death; all who con - fide in Christ a - lone are
heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues us from death; that
you have done, and jus - ti - fied by Je - sus' blood your
Three in One! To you, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty, be

ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
is the firm - est ground of faith.
bap - tism grants the high - est good.
praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

BLESSING

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ☩ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**

No Postlude during Lent

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WORSHIP SERVANTS

Worship Leader:	Eric Leshner
Organist/Pianist:	Anne Melang-Thoren/Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson
Jazz Ensemble:	Peter Schnake: voice Damian David: trumpet Jonah Bennett: bass Jonah Payne: drums
Reader:	Lisa Holmstrom
Communion Assistants:	Lisa Holmstrom and Roger Potts
Bread:	Chris and Wendy Apple
Altar Guild:	Jon and Connie Thorson
Ushers:	Kurt and Cindy Eberspacher, Lori Drake
Wine Donors:	Fran and Kevin Gade, Jo Miller

WORSHIP RESTRICTIONS

The following temporary changes will occur for the foreseeable future:

- As always, if you are **ill or at risk**, please stay at home and watch the service online.
- **Masks** are no longer required or recommended for everyone during worship. If you need to or want to wear a mask then please do so.
- We will enter the building through the **Atrium doors**. These doors will be locked at fifteen minutes past the hour. All other **doors will be locked**.
- There will **hand sanitizers** at the doorways. If you wish you can sanitize your hands prior to entering the worship space.
- There will be no offering. There will be an **offering basket** located at both entrance doors to the sanctuary.
- There will be **no sharing** of the peace.
- There will be **no acolyte or assisting minister**.
- There will be **no nursery** available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour

Coffee and cookies in the gym after worship. Sign-up to host is next to the office.

Adult Class

We complete our look at the book of Ezra. The temple restoration of some 20 years has been completed and now it is time to celebrate the Passover in a powerful way. **Class starts at 10:30.**

Prayers

Please offer prayers of healing for:

- Pat Lickei recovering from hip surgery at Southlake Village.
- Sue Clymer recovering from a stroke in North Carolina.
- Kim Mills recovering from a stroke at Brookside.
- Vernon Hunzeker recovering from breathing and voice problems at Tabitha.

For peace in the **Ukraine**. Please note **refugee donation sheets** on the welcome table.

Wednesday Lenten Services

Worship will be held at 12:15 pm in the chapel and at 5:30 pm in the nave. The second worship service is both in-person and online.

Easter Flower Donations

You are invited to donate flowers to beautify the church for Easter Sunday. You may donate in honor or in memory of someone or just donate to help offset the cost. Easter lilies are \$12; pots of tulips are \$10. Please fill out a donation form found at the Welcome Table or outside the office before April 11. Many thanks for your help.

People's City Mission

Congregational Life committee has a basket on the Welcome table for trial size donations of soap, shampoo and conditioner to be gathered for the Mission during the season of Lent. If you have any of these items at home then feel free to donate them next time you are here.

BSA Troop 30-Girls

Do you need some **Easter Eggs** for your family egg hunt?

Members of Scouts BSA Troop 30-Girls are selling pre-packed Easter eggs to raise money for their summer trip. Plastic eggs are pre-packed with an assortment of candy and toys. You may

order 25 eggs for \$20; 50 eggs for \$40; or 75 eggs for \$60. Eggs will be delivered directly to you. Deadline is April 1st.

You can place your order by email at bsatroop30.ne@gmail.com

Green attendance cards can be filled out and returned to the Offering basket in the front of the church after worship or the Welcome Table basket on the top of the atrium stairs.

2022 Offering Envelopes

Available in the atrium for you to pick up today or during the week.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

March 21:

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 pm
Gathering Place	5:00 pm
Lessons	4:00 pm
Boy Scouts	7:00 pm

March 22:

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm

March 23:

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 am
Worship Service	12:15 pm
Worship Service	5:30 pm
Bell Choir A practice	6:00 pm
Bell Choir B practice	7:00 pm

March 24:

Wildlife Rescue Meeting	6:30 pm
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March 25:

Suzuki Recital	3:00 pm
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March 26:

Worship	5:30 pm
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March 27:

Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Adult Class	10:30 am
LLC Practice	3:00 pm