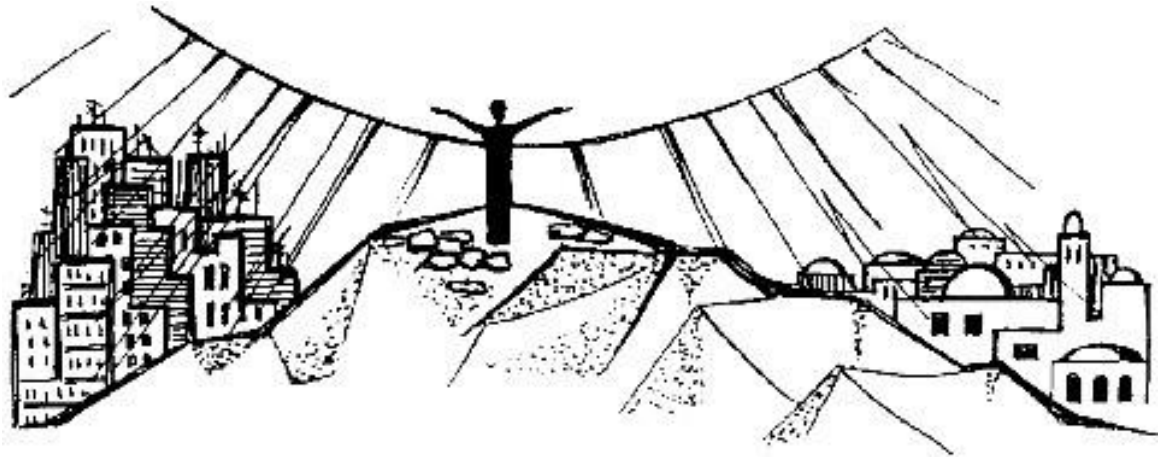
Holy Communion

First Sunday of Lent

February 26th, 2023



Gracε

GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you.**

SONG Great are you, Lord Words & Music: Sons & Daughters

You give life, You are love / You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore / Every heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs / So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise / It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

You give life, You are love / You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore (You restore)
Every heart that is broken / And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs / So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise / It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only (*Repeat*)

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing / Great are You, Lord (*Repeat*)

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will say / Great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs / So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise / It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only (*Repeat*)

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

SONG **Lord have mercy** Words & Music: Steve Merkel

Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom
Forgive me for my unbelief / Renew the fire again

Chorus Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me (*Repeat*)

I have built an altar where I've worshipped things of man
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing
Pardon my transgressions / Help me love You again *Chorus*

I have longed to know You and all Your tender mercies
Like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night *Chorus*

The absolution.

The Collect Prayer (First Sunday of Lent)

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (NIV/UK) *The fall*

2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of
Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God
commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the
garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of
good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.' 3:1
Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the
Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say,
"You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?' 2 The woman
said to the snake, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,
3 but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in
the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will
die."' 4 'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman.
5 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be
opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' 6 When
the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and
pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she
took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who
was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were
opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed
fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV/UK) *Jesus is tested in the wilderness*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you, O Lord.

4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be
tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting for forty days and forty
nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, 'If
you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'
4 Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' 5 Then
the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point
of the temple. 6 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw
yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels
concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that
you will not strike your foot against a stone."' 7 Jesus answered
him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

[8] Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed
him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. [9] 'All this I
will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'
[10] Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written:
"Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."' [11] Then the
devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

HYMN Forty days and forty nights

Words: GH Smyttan (adapt M Forster) & Music: M Herbst

Forty days and forty nights / You were fasting in the wild
Forty days and forty nights / Tempted still yet unbeguiled

Let us your endurance share / And from earthly greed abstain
With you vigilant in prayer / With you strong to suffer pain

Then if evil on us press / Flesh or spirit to assail
Victor in the wilderness / Help us not to swerve or fail

So shall peace divine be ours / Holy gladness pure and true
Come to us angelic powers / Such as ministered to you

Keep O keep us Saviour dear / Ever constant by Your side
That with You we may appear / At the eternal Eastertide

Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**.

And at the end

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.
Romans 5.1-2

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **and also with you.**

SONG Before the throne of God above

Words & Music: CL Bancroft & V Cook

Before the throne of God above / I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love/ Whoever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands / My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart / No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair / And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there / Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died / My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied / To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb / My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am / The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die / My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high / With Christ my Saviour and my God
With Christ my Saviour and my God

I bow before the cross of Christ / And marvel at this love divine
God's perfect Son was sacrificed / To make me righteous in God's eyes
This river's depths I cannot know / But I can glory in its flood
The Lord Most High has bowed down low
And poured on me His glorious love / And poured on me His glorious love

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and *saying*:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be
for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper
with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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 for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Communion is shared, and music may be played.

After the post-communion prayer.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

NOTICES

SONG **The Battle belongs to the Lord** Words & Music: Jamie Owens-Collins

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land
The battle belongs to the Lord
No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand
The battle belongs to the Lord

Chorus And we sing glory honor
Power and strength to the Lord
We sing glory honor
Power and strength to the Lord

When the power of darkness comes in like a flood
The battle belongs to the Lord
He's raised up a standard the pow'r of His blood
The battle belongs to the Lord *Chorus*

When your enemy presses in hard do not fear
The battle belongs to the Lord
Take courage my friend your redemption is near
The battle belongs to the Lord *Chorus*

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen*.*

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Our worship services and ministry in Groningen are made possible by people voluntarily offering their time, talents and financial support.
As God has blessed us, so we thank Him by giving accordingly.
To help support Grace Church, there is an opportunity to put an offering in the collection basket near the exit after the service.

It is also possible to donate by electronic transfer to **Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church)**, account: **NL 67 RABO 03012946 23**.

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Morning worship is held in English on:

- **2nd Sundays**
  - Holy Communion (said) at **9:00 am**;
  - Morning Prayer or Service of the Word at **10:30 am**
- **4th Sundays** (Holy Communion) at **10:30 am**

Both at **St Maarten-langs-de-weg** (Oud Katholieke Kerk), Witte de Withstraat, 2, Groningen.

Evening services with the Martiniwijkgemeente (also in English) are on:

- **1st Sundays** (Evening Service of the Word) at **17:00** in the **Martinikerk**.

Grace web-site: **http://gracechurchgroningen.com/**, and **Facebook** (Grace Church Groningen).
Chaplain: the Ven Sam Van Leer, Mon-Wed-Fri, chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

Grace Church Forthcoming Services and Events:

- Wednesdays 22 Feb to 19 April, 18:30: **Alpha Course**, SKLO Bldg, Kraneweg 33.
- Tuesdays 28 February, and 7, 14, 21 & 28 March, 19:30: **Spiritual Classics on Christian Disciplines** Reading Group, in person & online.
- Sunday 5 March, 17:00: **Grace & Martini International Service**, Martinikerk.
- Sunday 12 March, 9:00: **Grace Holy Communion (said)**, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 12 March, 10:30: **Grace Service of the Word**, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 12 March, 12:30: **Grace Church Annual Meeting**, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 26 March, 10:30: **Grace Holy Communion**, Old Catholic Church.