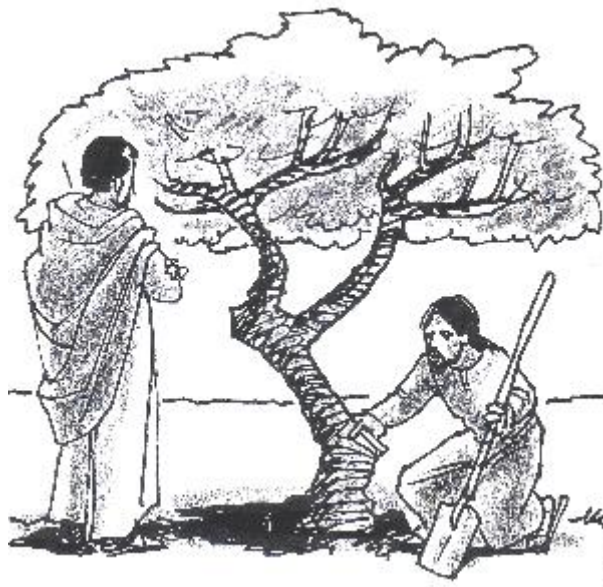


Holy Communion

Third Sunday of Lent

March 23rd, 2025



Grac⁺e
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 Come, now is the time to worship Words & Music: Brian Doerksen

Chorus Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are and worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come...

One day every tongue will confess you are God.

One day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly choose you now. *Chorus*

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives

Willingly our knees will bow

With all our heart, soul, mind and strength

We gladly choose you now *Chorus*

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

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Wash us thoroughly from our wickedness
and cleanse us from our sin:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Make us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Cast us not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from us:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The absolution.

The Collect Prayer (Third Sunday of Lent)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-9 (NIV)

Invitation to the Thirsty

55:¹ "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. ³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. ⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. ⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour." ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

PSALM 119 Words: Lee Ann Vermeulen-Roberts; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551 arr. Elco Voss

Happy are those who heed the word of God,
Who seek to do no evil or injustice.
They are the Lord's, and they respect his laws,
For He is just and all his ways are wondrous.
His path is right, his word makes us strong.
Help us, o Lord, to follow your commandments.

Lord, deal with me and teach me to obey.
Your righteousness, your perfect laws delight me.
Sometimes I'm lost, I wander and I stray;
Come take me home, my shepherd; walk beside me.
I will delight in everything you say.
Search me, o God; your word will always guide me.
With all my heart, with all my strength, Lord, I will obey You.
With all my heart, with all my strength, Lord, I will obey You.
With all my heart, with all my strength, Lord, I will obey You.
With all my heart, with all my strength, Lord, I will obey You.
For He is just and all his ways are wondrous.
His path is right, his word makes us strong.
Help us, o Lord, to follow your commandments.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 (NIV) *Repent or perish*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

13:¹ Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." ⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' ⁸ "Sir," the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilise it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

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

Sermon

SONG Draw me close Words & Music: Michael W Smith & Kelly Carpenter

Draw me close to you / Never let me go
I lay it all down again / To hear you say that I'm your friend
You are my desire / No one else will do
'Cause nothing else can take your place
To feel the warmth of your embrace
Help me find the way / Bring me back to you
You're all I want / You're all I've ever needed
You're all I want / Help me know you are near

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.**

HYMN How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

Words: John Newton; Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds / in a believer's ear!
it soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
it satisfies the hungry soul, / and gives the weary rest.

Dear name, the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place;
my never-failing treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace!

Jesus my shepherd, brother, friend,
my prophet, priest and king;
my Lord, my life, my way, my end -
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.

Till then I would your love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death.

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.

**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 Above all powers Words & Music: Lenny LeBlanc & Paul Baloche

Above all powers / Above all kings
Above all nature / And all created things
Above all wisdom / And all the ways of man
You were here / Before the world began
Above all kingdoms / Above all thrones
Above all wonders / The world has ever known
Above all wealth / And treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure / What You're worth

Chorus Crucified / Laid behind a stone
 You lived to die / Rejected and alone
 Like a rose / Trampled on the ground
 You took the fall / And thought of me / Above all

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.



Morning worship: 2nd Sundays, Morning Prayer/Service of the Word at 10:30 am;
4th Sundays (Holy Communion) at 10:30 am, all at St Maarten-langs-de-weg (Oud Katholieke Kerk), Witte de Withstraat, 2, Groningen.

Evening services: with the Martiniwijkgemeente: 1st Sundays at 17:00 in the Martinikerk.

Web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>; **Facebook** (Grace Church Groningen).

Chaplain: the Ven Sam Van Leer, Mon-Wed-Fri, chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Kramer; gracesafeguarding@gmail.com

Safeguarding in Grace Church: <https://gracechurchgroningen.com/caring/safeguarding/>

Diocese: <https://www.europe.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding-diocese-europe>

Media privacy: please note that films or photos featuring others in worship and fellowship should not be taken or shared without the consent of those appearing in them.

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 during the service or near the exit afterwards.

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



Grace Church Forthcoming Services and Events:

- Wednesdays 12 March through 9 April, 19:30: Lent Course: Celebrating Nicaea, Online (Zoom). To sign up, contact: eliza@holytrinityutrecht.nl
- Sunday 23 March, 12:30: Annual Meeting, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 6 April, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.
- Sunday 13 April, 10:30: Grace Palm Sunday Service, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 20 April, 10:30: Grace Easter Sunday Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 27 April, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.

Movie Nights: March 28th & April 11th SKLO Bldg (Kraneweg 33, 9718 JE Groningen)

For info on Home Groups, Bible Study gatherings & other events, please do ask us!