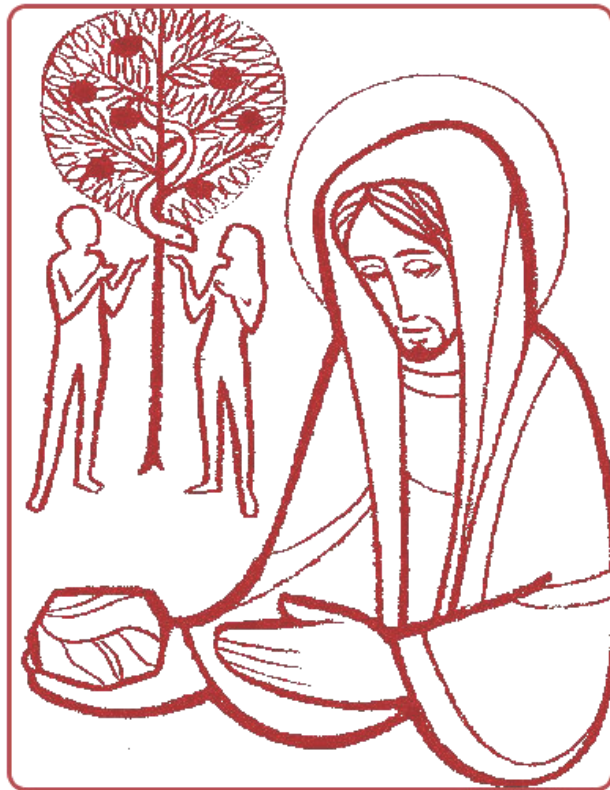


Holy Communion

First Sunday of Lent

February 22nd, 2026



Grac⁺ε
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 How Great is our God

Words & Music: Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash

The splendor of the King / Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice / Let all the earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light / And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice / And trembles at His voice →

Chorus How great is our God, Sing with me
How great is our God, And all will see how great
How great is our God

Age to age He stands / And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end / Beginning and the end
The God head three in one / Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb / The Lion and the Lamb *Chorus*
You're the Name above all names / Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing / How great is our God

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.**

The absolution.

SONG Seek ye first Words & Music: H G Spafford & P Bliss

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God / And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu Alleluia

Chorus Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia

You shall not live by bread alone, / But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, Alleluia *Chorus*

Ask and it shall be given unto you / Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you. Allelu, Alleluia *Chorus*

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 Hungry, I come to you

Words & Music: Kathryn Scott

Hungry, I come to you / For I know You satisfy
I am empty, but I know / Your love does not run dry

Chorus So I wait for you / So I wait for You
 I'm falling on my knees / Offering all of me
 Jesus, You're all this heart is living for

Broken, I run to You / For Your arms are open wide
I am weary, but I know / Your touch restores my life *Chorus*

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 In Christ alone Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All / Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died / The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid / Here in the death of Christ I live
There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory / Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine / Bought with the precious blood of Christ
No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From a life's first cry to final breath / Jesus commands my
destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Could ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I stand

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.

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 & Activities:

- Sunday 8 March, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 22 March, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 22 March, after the service: Grace Church Annual Meeting.
- Sunday 5 April (Easter), 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 12 April, 10:30: Grace Service of Baptism, Old Catholic Church.

Movie Nights (at 19:30 at SKLO Bldg, Kraneweg 33, Groningen):

March 6th: The Duelists; March 20th: Gattaca;
April 10th: Florence Foster Jenkins;
May 8th: Music Box.

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