Service of the Word

3rd Sunday of Lent

March 12th, 2023

Grace
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

GATHERING

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

This is the day which the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SONG **Light of the world (Sing Hallelujah)** Words & Music: Andrew Bergthold

Light of the world, treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars, in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight

Light of the world, from the beginning
The tragedies of time, were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory, You saw my story
God, You entered in, and became one of us

Chorus Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the light of the world

Light of the world, crown in a manger
Born for the Cross, to suffer, to save
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer
We are the richer, by the price that He paid, ohh *Chorus*

Light of the world, soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us, straight into glory
And there He shall reign, forevermore / Oh, forevermore *Chorus*

Opening Prayer

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence is kept and then the Collect (Prayer for the Day), is prayed.

Collect Prayer (3rd 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.**

Saying Sorry to God

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith. *Cf Ps 51*

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Absolution.

HYMN Jesus, lover of my soul

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Joseph Parry

Jesus, lover of my soul, / let me to thy bosom fly
while the nearer waters roll, / while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, / till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide. / O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; / hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah, leave me not alone; / still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed, / all my help from thee I bring.
Cover my defenseless head / with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; / more than all in thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, / heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name; / I am all unrighteousness.
False and full of sin I am; / thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, / grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound; / make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art; / freely let me take of thee.
spring thou up within my heart, / rise to all eternity.

Epistle Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 (NIV/UK)

Water from the rock

17:[1] The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. [2] So they quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses replied, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?' [3] But the people were thirsty for water

there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?' [4] Then Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.' [5] The Lord answered Moses, 'Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. [6] I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.' So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. [7] And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

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

Gospel Reading **John 4:5-30** (NIV/UK)

Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman

4:[5] So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. [6] Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. [7] When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' [8] (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) [9] The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) [10] Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.' [11] 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? [12] Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?' [13] Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, [14] but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' [15] The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.' [16] He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.' [17] 'I have no husband,' she replied. Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. [18] The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.' [19] 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet. [20] Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews

claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.’
21 ‘Woman,’ Jesus replied, ‘believe me, a time is coming when you will
worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You
Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do
know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has
now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the
Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father
seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit
and in truth.’ 25 The woman said, ‘I know that Messiah’ (called Christ)
‘is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.’ 26 Then
Jesus declared, ‘I, the one speaking to you – I am he.’ 27 Just then
his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a
woman. But no one asked, ‘What do you want?’ or ‘Why are you
talking with her?’ 28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went
back to the town and said to the people, 29 ‘Come, see a man who
told me everything I’ve ever done. Could this be the Messiah?’
30 They came out of the town and made their way towards him.

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

SERMON

HYMN I heard the voice of Jesus say

Words: H Bonar; Music: R Vaughan Williams

I heard the voice of Jesus say: / “Come unto Me and rest.
Lay down thou weary one, lay down / thy head upon My breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, / weary and worn and sad.
I found in Him a resting place, / and He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say: / “Behold I freely give
the living water, thirsty one, / stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus and I drank / Of that life giving stream.
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived / And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say: / “I am this dark world's light.
Look unto Me, the morn shall rise / And all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus and I found / In Him my Star, my Sun.
And in that light of life I'll walk / Till travelling days are gone

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into heaven,
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.

INTERCESSIONS

Prayers are offered, and this response may be used:
Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

The prayers may end with:
Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

As our Saviour has 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.

HYMN O the deep, deep love of Jesus

Words: S T Francis; Music: T Williams

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! / Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
rolling as a mighty ocean / in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, / is the current of thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward, / to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! / Spread his praise from shore to shore;
how he loveth, ever loveth, / changeth never, nevermore;
how he watches o'er his loved ones, / died to call them all his own;
how for them he intercedeth, / watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! / Love of ev'ry love the best:
'tis an ocean vast of blessing, / 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! / 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glory, / for it lifts me up to thee.

NOTICES

SONG The Lord bless you and keep you

Barucha

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face shine upon you
And give you peace / And give you peace
And give you peace forever

The Lord be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face towards you
And give you peace / And give you peace
And give you peace forever

SHARING THE GRACE and GOING OUT TO SERVE

All: **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen**

Let us bless the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Grace
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church) brings together people who desire to know Jesus, follow Him and make Him known.
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 bags during the service or in the 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**.

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:

- Wednesday 22 February (and Wednesdays thereafter), 18:30: **Alpha Course**, SKLO Bldg, Kraneweg 33.
- Tuesday 28 February (and Tuesdays 7, 14, 21 & 28 March), 19:30: **Spiritual Classics on Christian Disciplines** Reading Group, in person & online, t.b.d.
- 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.
- Sunday 2 April, 17:00: **Grace & Martini International Service**, Martinikerk.
- Easter Sunday 9 April, 10:30: **Grace Holy Communion**, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 23 April, 10:30: **Grace Service of the Word**, Old Catholic Church.