

Service of the Word

4th Sunday of Lent

March 10th, 2024



Grac⁺ε
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.

HYMN Immortal, invisible, God only wise Text: W. Chalmers Smith; Music: Welsh trad melody

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

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 said.

Collect Prayer (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, 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 Psalm 51.17*

**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.**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG Only by Grace Words & Music: Graham Kendrick

Only by grace can we enter / Only by grace can we stand
Not by our human endeavour / But by the blood of the Lamb
Into Your presence You call us / You call us to come
Into Your presence You draw us / And now by Your grace we come
Now by Your grace we come

Chorus Lord if You mark our transgressions
Who would stand?
Thanks to Your grace we are cleansed
By the blood of the Lamb

Old Testament Reading Numbers 21:4-9 *The bronze snake*
21:⁴They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go round Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!' ⁶Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸The Lord said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.'
⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV) *Made Alive in Christ*

2:¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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

SONG Samen in de naam van Jezus Words & Music: C.A.E. Groot & H. Lieberton

Samen in de naam van Jezus / Heffen wij een loflied aan
Want de Geest spreekt alle talen / En doet ons elkaar verstaan
Samen bidden, samen zoeken / Naar het plan van onze Heer
Samen zingen en getuigen / Samen leven tot Zijn eer

Heel de wereld moet het weten / Dat God niet veranderd is
En zijn liefde als een lichtstraal / Doordringt in de duisternis
'T werk van God is niet te keren / Omdat Hij er over waakt
En de Geest doorbreekt de grenzen / Die door mensen zijn gemaakt

Prijs de Heer / De weg is open / Naar de Vader naar elkaar
Jezus Christus, Triomfator / Mijn Verlosser, Middelaar
Vader met geheven handen / Breng ik U mijn dank en eer
'T is Uw Geest die mij doet zeggen / Jezus Christus is de Heer

Gospel Reading John 3:14-21 (NIV) *The Son of Man must be Lifted Up*

3:¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in

him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

SONG From heaven you came (Servant King)

Music and text: Graham Kendrick

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled;
Not to be served but to serve, / And give your life that we might live.

Refrain This is our God, the Servant King,
 He calls us now to follow him,
 To bring our lives as a daily offering
 Of worship to the Servant King.

There in the garden of tears, / My heavy load he chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
"Yet not my will but yours," he said. *Refrain*

Come see his hands and his feet, / The scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered. *Refrain*

So let us learn how to serve, / And in our lives enthrone him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving. *Refrain*

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

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.**

NOTICES

***HYMN* Amazing Grace** Words: John Newton; Music: American folk-hymn

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught, my heart to fear.
And grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come.
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead us home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

Going out to serve God

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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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.

*Liturgical texts from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (London) © The Archbishops' Council 2000.
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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 (Sept-June, 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.

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Kramer; gracesafeguarding@gmail.com

Grace web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>, and Facebook (Grace Church Groningen).

Grace Church Forthcoming Services and Events:

- **Sunday 10 March, 12:30: Grace Church Annual Meeting, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 24 March, 10:30: Grace Palm Sunday Service with Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 31 March, 10:30: Grace Easter Service with Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 7 April, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.**
- **Sunday 14 April, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 28 April, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.**
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Online Lent Course (at 20:00 on Mondays 19 & 26 February and 11 & 18 March), based on Rowan William's book, *God with us*.

Email the chaplain for the Zoom link.