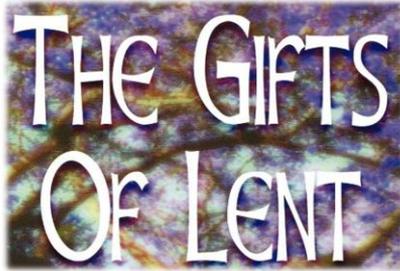


Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

G.R.A.C.E. LENTEN SERIES – 6:30 PM



Wednesday Nights – each week @ 6:30 PM @ PEUMC

February 25<sup>th</sup> ————— led by Pastor Beth Rohn-Habegger,  
*Rapids Moravian Church*  
*“A family gives their home”*

March 4<sup>th</sup> ————— sermon by Pastor Kate,  
*First Congregational, Rapids*  
*“Mary gives her perfume”*

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** **led by Pastor Caleb,**  
***Port Edwards United Methodist***  
***“Simon gives his strength.”***

March 18<sup>th</sup> sermon by Pastor Margo,  
*Woodland Lutheran, Rome*  
*“Joseph gives his tomb.”*

March 25<sup>th</sup> led by Pastor Michelle,  
*Grace Lutheran, Rapids*  
*“A man gives his donkey”*

Holy Week

April 2<sup>nd</sup> Maundy Thursday – Nekoosa UCC – 7:00 PM

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday PEUMC 2:45 – 3:00 PM

Musician: Judy Miller  
Greeter: Rose Wirtz

Media Technician: Ethan Boerner  
Usher: \_\_\_\_\_

Liturgist: Diane Sweat

UMH – The United Methodist Hymnal      TFWS – The Faith We Sing  
L – Liturgist (Matt) / M – Minister (Pastor Beth)

~~~~ all liturgy is in your bulletin, not on the screens ~~~~

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: As evening gathers and shadows lengthen,  
we remember the road to Golgotha.

**P: It is the way of the Cross, the Way of Jesus.**

L: The soldiers mocked Him and led Him out to die.

**P: Onward He walked,  
bearing the weight of the world.**

L: When His human strength failed Him,  
they compelled as passerby to carry the cross.

**P: May we, like Simon,  
take up the burdens love places in our path.**

L: As we enter this Lenten evening,  
we remember all who carry heavy burdens  
on their hearts and in their minds.

**P: May our steps be strengthened  
and our hearts steadied.**

L: Come, let us follow the One who bore our sufferings and  
shared His journey with strangers and friends.

**ALL:**

**We gather now to worship the Crucified One,  
who transforms every burden with extravagant love.  
May it be so tonight! AMEN!**

**1. When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of Glory died;  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown.**

**4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* UMH 301

**1. Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
there a precious fountain, free to all, a healing  
stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.**

*Chorus: In the cross, in the cross,  
be my glory ever, 'til my raptured soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.*

**2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy  
found me; there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. (Chorus)**

**3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes  
before me; help me walk from day to day  
with its shadow o'er me. (Chorus)**

## OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Psalm 31:9-16, adapted*

L: Lord, we have many troubles, so be kind to us.

We have cried until our eyes hurt.

Our throats and stomachs are aching.

**P: Because of our sin,**

**we feel our lives are ending in grief;**

**our years are passing away with sighs of pain.**

L: We feel our life is ending in weakness

and our strength is draining away.

**P: Our enemies despise us,**

**and even our neighbors have turned away.**

**When so-called ‘friends’ see us out and about,  
they turn the other way.**

**They are afraid to be around us.**

L: People want to forget us like people already dead,

thrown away like a broken dish.

**P: But, Lord, we trust in You! You are our God!**

L: Our life is in Your hands.

Save us from those who persecute us.

**ALL: Please welcome & accept Your serving people.**

**Be kind to us and save us. This is our prayer.**

*Mark 15:16-30*

*(following the reading)*

*L: Our God reigns today and forever!*

**ALL: Glory be to God! Amen!**

*“God has an important calling for you!”*

**‘THE GIFTS OF LENT,’ PART 3**

**SIMON GIVES HIS STRENGTH** Pastor Caleb

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone* UMH 424

**1. Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
and all the world go free?**

**No, there's a cross for everyone,  
and there's a cross for me.**

**2. How happy are the saints above,  
who once went sorrowing here!**

**But now they taste unmingled love,  
and joy without a tear.**

**3. The consecrated cross I'll bear  
till death shall set me free;  
and then go home my crown to wear,  
for there's a crown for me.**

\*THE GIFTS OF LENT RITUAL, Week 3: *Blood of the Cross*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: Holy God, on road to Calvary,  
Your Son was mocked and belittled,  
and when His human strength failed Him,  
a stranger was pulled from the crowd  
to shoulder the unbearable weight of the cross.  
We confess that we often step back  
when someone is in need,  
especially when it inconveniences us.  
We've chosen comfort over compassion,  
distance over solidarity,  
and convenience of silence over the cost of love.  
Forgive us, Lord, and give us the physical strength  
and the spiritual fortitude of Simon  
that we may lift high what love requires.  
In Christ's name we pray: AMEN!**

*[MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION & CONFESSION]*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*M: Hear the Good News of Jesus . . .*

*. . . In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.*

**P: In the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven. Glory to God! AMEN!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(each time):*

M: Lord, like Simon, the chosen one . . .

**ALL: . . . may we lighten the loads of others.**

\*HYMN OF MISSION: *Lift High the Cross* UMH 159

***Chorus:***

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;  
Let all adore that sacred name.***

- 1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *(Chrs)***
- 2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. *(Ch)***
- 3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. *(Chorus)***
- 4. Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease,  
beneath the shadow of its healing peace. *(Chorus)***
- 5. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory. *(Chorus)***

## \*BENEDICTION

### TONIGHT'S TABLE QUESTIONS BASED ON

#### **"SIMON GIVES HIS STRENGTHS"**

1. When have you ever been 'pulled from the crowd' to help someone lift a burden? How did that experience shape you?
2. What burdens do you see people carrying in your community right now? Which of those burdens might God be nudging you to help shoulder?
3. Simon carried the cross with Jesus, not in place of Him. What does it mean to you to walk alongside someone in suffering without trying to fix or control their situation?
4. Have you ever discovered grace or purpose in something you didn't want to do at first? (John Wesley "went unwillingly" to an evening meeting that ended up changing his life!)
5. Where in your life is it difficult to receive help? What keeps you from letting others carry part of your load?
6. What helps you move from being a bystander to being a companion on the journey?
7. If you imagine yourself in the scene – soldier, passerby, disciple, or Simon – who do you identify with today? What does that reveal about your spiritual journey this Lent?

## **TONIGHT'S OFFERING**

*(place any donations in the wooden box as you leave the service tonight)*

Any donations received tonight (or future Wed. Lenten services) will go to support G.R.A.C.E.'s ongoing efforts to eliminate student debt in our Rapids area graduating classes.

Checks can now be written out directly to "G.R.A.C.E."

Last year, we disbursed **\$3,200** locally.  
We have raised almost **\$2,800** so far, for this year.