

April 26th, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI—SYNOD
308 Byrne Street
Smithville, TX 78957
512-237-2108

The Office of Matins
Streamed Online at 10 AM

Pastor Timothy Appel



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

A Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen

With High Delight Let Us Unite

LSB 483

1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord

ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van - quished lie;
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed

Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His

free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set

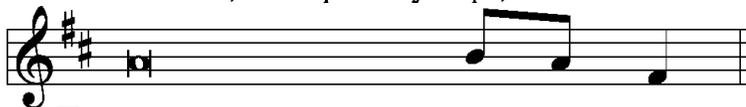
ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Opening Versicles

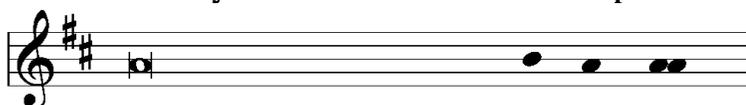
LSB 219



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Common: Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Antiphon for Easter



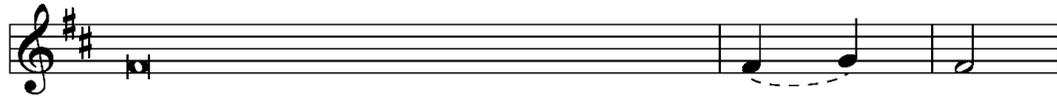
L The Lord is risen in - deed. Al - le - lu - ia.



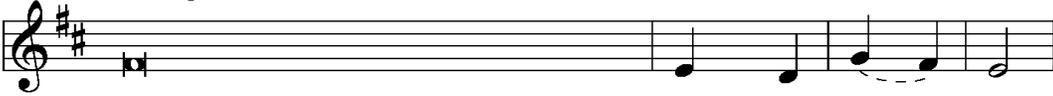
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

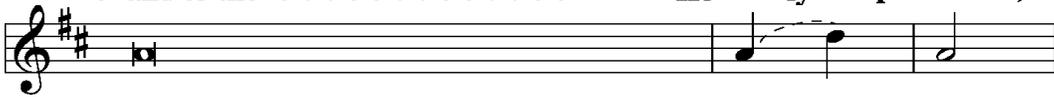
LSB 220



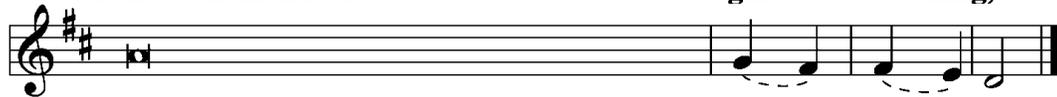
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son



1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon for Easter



L The Lord is risen in - deed. Al - le - lu - ia.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 116:1-14

- ¹I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.
- ²Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- ³The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
- ⁴Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"
- ⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

⁶The LORD preserves the simple;
 when I was brought low, he saved me.
⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest;
 for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
⁸For you have delivered my soul from death,
 my eyes from tears,
 my feet from stumbling;
⁹I will walk before the LORD
 in the land of the living.
¹⁰I believed, even when I spoke,
 "I am greatly afflicted";
¹¹I said in my alarm,
 "All mankind are liars."
¹²What shall I render to the LORD
 for all his benefits to me?
¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation
 and call on the name of the LORD,
¹⁴I will pay my vows to the LORD
 in the presence of all his people.
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning,
 is now and will be forever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

LSB 585



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, with us a - bide, For round us
 2 In these last days of great dis - tress Grant us, dear
 3 To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold Speak tongues of
 4 May glo - rious truths that we have heard, The bright sword



falls the e - ven - tide. O let Your Word,
 Lord, true stead - fast - ness That we keep pure
 fire and make us bold To shine Your Word
 of Your might - y Word, Spurn Sa - tan that



that sav - ing light, Shine forth un - dimmed in - to the night.
 till life is spent Your ho - ly Word and Sac - ra - ment.
 of sav - ing grace In - to each dark and love - less place.
 Your Church be strong, Bold, u - ni - fied in act and song.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 Restrain, O Lord, the human pride
 That seeks to thrust Your truth aside
 Or with some man-made thoughts or things
 Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.</p> | <p>6 Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;
 Preserve our faith our whole life through—
 Your Word alone our heart's defense,
 The Church's glorious confidence.</p> |
|---|---|

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

P The First Reading is from Acts, the second chapter.

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them...

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 1:17-25

P The Epistle is from 1 Peter, the first chapter.

¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for

"All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever."

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and

found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Responsory (Easter)

LSB 222

To Refrain



L 1 Sing to the Lord and bless His name, proclaim His salvation from day to day.
 2 Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that sleep.
 3 Glory be to the
 Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



C Give to the Lord all glo - ry and strength, give Him the
 hon - or due His name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sermon “Nothing Else to Do”

Luke 24:13-35

He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

LSB 488



He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled



is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.



My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -



rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.

O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,
Life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 227

C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Collects

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

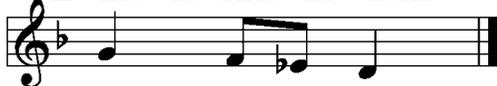
G Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 228



L Let us bless the Lord.



G Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 228



L The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with us all.



G A - men.

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

LSB 919



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
- 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
- 3 A - bide with heav'n-ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
- 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun-teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

- 5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.

- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Silent Prayer After Worship

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ongoing Worship Services at Grace

Due to the current pandemic, we will continue to make use of online opportunities to hear God's Word as we consult with the recommendations and directions from county, state, and national officials. Our elders will be evaluating this from week-to-week and make regular announcements as to what our worship schedule will be in order for you to plan to participate. Our worship on Sunday, May 3, will continue in the manner of the month of April. Please visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/> beginning about 10 minutes prior to the service time to join the live service, or check back later to watch the recorded video. Bulletins for each service can be downloaded and printed ahead of time by visiting our church website (<http://www.glcs.org/newsletters-and-bulletins.html>)

Opportunities for Communion

There continue to be opportunities for individuals and families to receive Communion individually on Sunday mornings. Please check our Facebook page (link above) during the week to sign up for a time to receive the Lord's Body and Blood on Sunday morning. You are also always welcome to contact me to set up a different time to receive the Sacrament. In accordance with the orders from our county judge, please wear a mask when you come. Pray that the Lord will bring a quick end to this pandemic and grant us the renewed opportunity to join in His Supper together as a congregation soon.

Giving to Grace Lutheran Church

You can continue to worship God with your offerings and tithes during this time of limited physical gatherings at Grace. Here are a couple of options:

- 1) Bring your offering with you when you come to receive Holy Communion.
- 2) Mail your offering to the church at 308 Byrne Street, Smithville, TX 78957.
- 3) Drop your offering through the mail slot on the front church door; call to make sure someone is in the office first so that your offering is picked up in a timely manner.

Currently, we do not have an online giving option, although our treasurer is exploring our options. At all times, our gifts and offerings are an expression of faith and worship, recognizing that all things we have come from our heavenly Father's hand. "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!"

Bible Study

During this time of limited physical gathering, there are still faithful resources available to you to strengthen your faith through Bible study. Particularly, I encourage you to listen to the radio Bible study I lead every weekday morning. It's called *Sharper Iron*; it airs weekday mornings from 8-9 AM (<https://www.kfuo.org/>); it's also available for you to listen in archives or on podcast if you miss the live broadcast (<https://www.kfuo.org/category/sharper-iron/>). When I began hosting this show last July, I did so in order to provide a resource, not just for the wider church, but particularly for you here at Grace. I approach the study of the Scripture with a guest pastor each time with you in mind. My encouragement during this time when we are not gathering in person for Bible study is that you would make use of this resource, and I would certainly also pray that it remains a blessing to you beyond this time as well.

Pastoral Care

While the pandemic occupies much of our concern and prayers right now, I know that these are not the only matters for which you may desire pastoral care. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide pastoral care and apply the Word of God in any situation you may be facing.

Supplies for Future Gatherings

At this point, we do not know when larger physical gatherings for our worship services will be able to take place safely again. It seems likely that when restrictions on gatherings begin to ease, they will do so gradually, and cleaning procedures will be important to keep them safe. For that reason, it seems wise to begin making sure that our congregation has appropriate materials available to protect the congregation's health, to the best of our ability, when our gatherings begin to resume. We do not want to hoard these materials; we only want to make sure we have what is needed. At this point, the items we know we will need are disinfecting wipes and spray, masks, and disposable gloves. If you are able to donate one of these items, it is greatly appreciated. Items can be left on one of the benches outside of the parish hall during normal office hours (9 AM-2 PM, Tuesday-Friday); call the office to let us know, and items will be brought inside. Please also feel free to call the office ahead of time to find out if the church's need has already been met so that we do not hoard these items away from other who are in need of them. Thank you for supporting Grace in this way!



Staff Positions Available

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2020-2021 academic year! Interested individuals who teach in any subject areas may submit resumes to Faith Lutheran High School, PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960, call (979) 242-2889, or email them to kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com. If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!

FLHS Distant Learning

Who would have thought that the beginning of March, when our students left for spring break, would be the last time our students would be on campus this semester? We recognize this situation has impacted not only us, but our community and nation also.

We ask for your prayers, as we have made the transition into online delivery of classes. Our faculty has worked diligently to make this unexpected transition as smooth as possible. Our students understand the need for this, but are anxious to get back onto campus, to their Faith family.

This pandemic has made our fundraising efforts more challenging, but yet, still necessary. Thankfully, we have the assurance that God's word is true and "His love endures forever" (Ps. 136). Will you consider partnering with us as we carry out our mission in this new environment? Thank you, on behalf of the students who will be instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders tomorrow, for your generous support.

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is underway. Two new students have already enrolled and we are looking to add more students to our family. Are you looking for a Christ-centered education, a rigorous college prep curriculum, small class sizes? Schedule a shadow day and check out FLHS!! Call (979) 242-2889 today!

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Nikki Kueck to learn more.