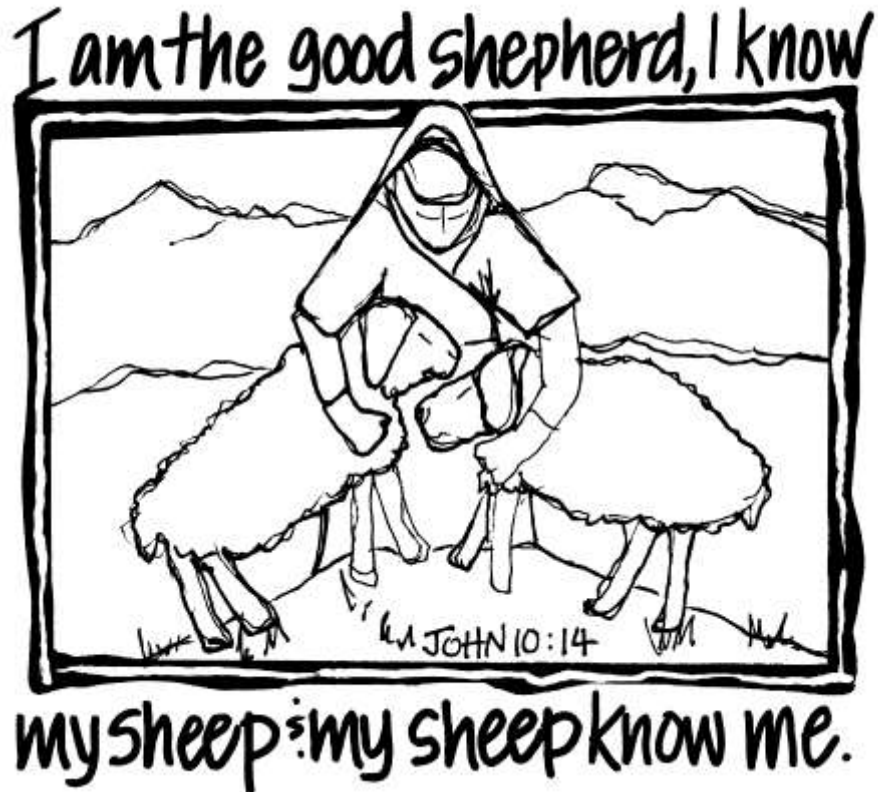


Mary 3rd, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Easter



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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

LSB 475



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice and sing! Now is the tri-umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to
 3 Praise we in songs of vic-to-ry That love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris-en Lord, And sing to-day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 strew His way; Let all the world re-joice and say:
 can-not die, And sing with hearts up-lift-ed high:
 one ac-cord The life laid down, the life re-stored:



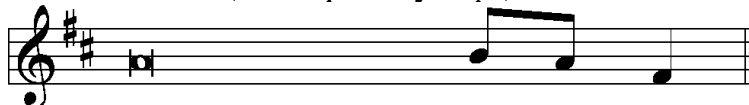
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Opening Versicles

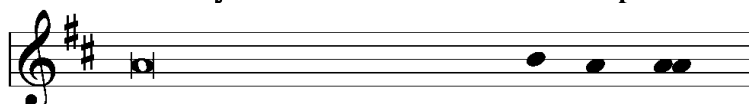
LSB 219



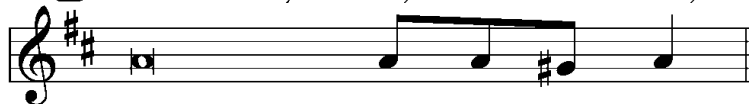
L O Lord, o-pen my lips,



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 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
²He makes me lie down in green pastures.
 He leads me beside still waters.
³He restores my soul.
 He leads me in paths of righteousness
 for his name's sake.
⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil,
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.
 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.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

LSB 709

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my

I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

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

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Peter 2:19-25

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

¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

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 "Abundant Life Is Only and Always in Jesus"

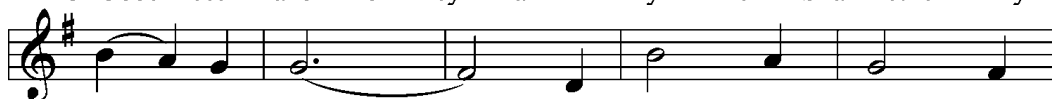
John 10:9-10

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

LSB 710



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He
walk doth make With - in the paths of
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
of my foes; My head Thou dost with
fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

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 Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.

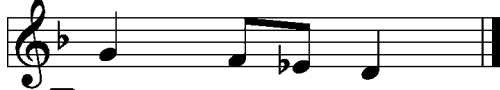
C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 228



L Let us bless the Lord.



C 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.

C A - men.

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

LSB 740

1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
 2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
 3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the

heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
 staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
 Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,

Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
 In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
 By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me

day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
 bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
 to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

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

This coming Sunday, May 10, worship will proceed as we have during the month of April. Our worship service that week will be streamed on our Facebook page beginning about 10 AM; appointments for Communion will be available before and after the service. After reviewing this week's recommendations from Gov. Abbott, the board of elders has set Sunday, May 17, as the target date to begin offering increased worship services at Grace. More details will be forthcoming, but here are the highlights so that you can begin to plan:

- Two worship services will be offered each Sunday, one at 8:30 AM and one at 10:00 AM. Attendance will be limited to 50 people at each. You will need to sign up for your desired service ahead of time, either by using the online tool that will be provided or by calling the church office.
- We will practice social distancing throughout the sanctuary. We will skip every other pew in the first service, and then switch the pews for the second. Households will sit together, leaving at least 6 feet of space between other households.
- Families will be ushered forward one at a time for the distribution of the Sacrament. Rather than kneeling at the rail, this will take place immediately in front of the chancel, in a method similar to what we use during our service before the bazaar.
- Commonly touched surfaces will be sanitized between services.
- The assisting elder and I will wear masks during the distribution of the Sacrament. Although wearing masks is no longer required, we are encouraging those who come to worship to wear them.
- Previously implemented health-conscious practices will be continued (service will be printed fully in bulletin, no passing of offering plates, no sharing of the peace, no hand shakes during greeting, doors will be held open for you, no congregating in the narthex, etc).
- Additional services may be added to accommodate more worshipers.

For those who are unable or choose not to attend due to health concerns, opportunities will continue for you to stream services live on Facebook, and the Sacrament will continue to be offered on an individual basis by appointment. For those who are not leaving their homes at all, I will also begin to offer to visit you with the Sacrament in a way that will expose you to the least risk possible, all the while delivering the Body and Blood of Christ to you. Upon setting up a time to visit you, I'd arrive and set up the Sacrament on a table on your front porch and then sit in my lawn chair at least six feet away. At that point, you can come out; we'll visit and receive the Sacrament. Once you've gone back inside, I'll take care of clean up.

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!

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.