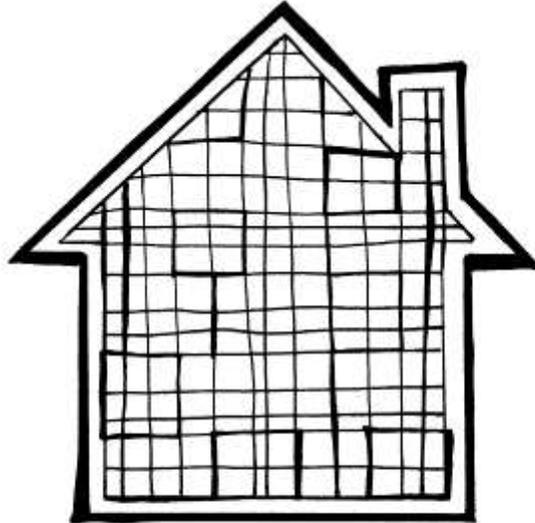


May 10th, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Easter



IN MY FATHER'S
HOUSE THERE ARE
MANY ROOMS

JOHN 14:2

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

You Are the Way; through You Alone

LSB 526

1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
 2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True
 3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant

we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
 wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -
 claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
 us that way to know, That truth to keep, that

God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
 form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
 trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
 life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

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 146

¹Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
³Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.
⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
⁷who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD!
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.

Christ Be My Leader

LSB 861

1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not
dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor
fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

First Reading

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

P The First Reading is from Acts, the sixth and seventh chapters.

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen....

²And Stephen said...

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.

⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:2-10

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

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—
³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

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 "Not Troubled, but Believing Hearts"

John 14:1-14

He's Risen, He's Risen

LSB 480



1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;
2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry
3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.
The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.
And death, hell, and Sa - tan He van - quished, His foes.
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.
Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song
In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,
The con - quer - ing Lord lifts His ban - ner on high;
For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;
Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.
For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nev - er - more die.
Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.
With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

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, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through 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.

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

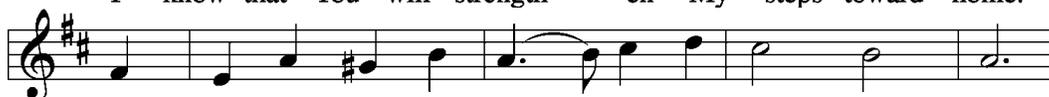
LSB 722



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

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 17, we will begin offering increased worship services at Grace. Here's what you need to know:

- 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 sent by e-mail and posted on Facebook 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. The service will be printed fully in bulletin so you will not need to use the hymnal. We will forgo the passing of offering plates, the sharing of the peace, and handshakes during greeting. Please enter the church through the doors that open to the parking lot (these will be held open for you), and avoid going into the parish hall. We will also avoid congregating in the narthex.
- 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

As Grace prepares to increase our gatherings for worship, it is important that we have supplies for cleaning. We do not want to hoard these materials; we only want to make sure we have what is needed. The items we need most are disinfecting wipes and spray and hand sanitizer. If you are able to donate one of these items, it is greatly appreciated. They 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. Although we know these items are hard to find right now, we hope that everyone in the congregation looking for them will help us have the items that we need. 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.



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.