

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**



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

**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.”**

**In our readings today:** *“The God who ... gives to all mankind life and breath and everything” (Acts 17:24–25) wants all people to seek Him that they might “feel their way toward him and find him” (Acts 17:27). But in our sinful ignorance, we humans turn instead to idols “formed by the art and imagination of man” (Acts 17:29). Therefore, God appointed the Man of Righteousness, Jesus Christ, and “has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead” (Acts 17:31). Because He lives, we also live (John 14:19) in His forgiveness, and thus we love Him and keep His commandments (John 14:15). While the risen Lord prepares us for His ascension, He will not leave us “as orphans” (John 14:18), but He gives “another Helper,” the Holy Spirit, to be with us forever (John 14:16) through the preaching of “Jesus and the resurrection” (Acts 17:18). Because He “suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous” (1 Peter 3:18), we “honor Christ the Lord as holy” and are always “prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks” for the reason for our hope (1 Peter 3:15). Our Baptism “now saves” us “as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21).*

**Requests,** please give written requests to be included during our “Prayers of the Church” to an usher or an elder before worship service.

**Hearing,** Ask an usher for one of the wireless hearing assistance units.

**Holy Communion** is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus’ own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matthew 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26). For this reason, and because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-34), we ask that those who have not yet been instructed and those who are not members of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

**Attendance Registration,** cards are located in the Hymnal racks of each pew. We ask all members and our guests to complete one and pass it to the center aisles. An usher will collect them after the offering is taken to the altar. The cards are important as they enable our secretary to track members’ attendance as well as guests interested in joining our church. Thank you for your help.

### **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*

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME**

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556 sts. 1-5



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, With ex-ul-ta-tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark-ly  
3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer-it  
4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be-fore the world's foun-



spring-ing, And with u-nit-ed heart and voice And ho-ly  
o'er me. Sin was my tor-ment night and day; In sin my  
gain-ing; Free will a-gainst God's judg-ment fought, Dead to all  
da-tion, And mind-ful of His mer-cies great, He planned for



rap-ture sing-ing, Pro-claim the won-ders God has done, How  
moth-er bore me. But dai-ly deep-er still I fell; My  
good re-main-ing. My fears in-creased till sheer de-spair Left  
my sal-va-tion. He turned to me a fa-ther's heart; He



His right arm the vic-t'ry won. What price our ran-som cost Him!  
life be-came a liv-ing hell, So firm-ly sin pos-sessed me.  
on-ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf-fered.  
did not choose the eas-y part But gave His dear-est trea-sure.

- 5 God said to His beloved Son:  
"It's time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,  
And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
May live with You forever."

Stand

**Invocation** (God has given us our beginning in Baptism, so the Divine Service begins in His Name.)

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**Confession:** *(We cannot come into the presence of our holy God on our own. We recognize our sinfulness and plead for mercy on account of Christ.)*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**Absolution:** *(God speaks His words of forgiveness to us through His servant, the pastor.)*

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

**Introit:** *(Forgiven by God, He invites us into his presence as we speak words from the Psalms.)*

*Ps. 119:89-93; antiphon: Ps. 119:105*

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

**Forever, O LORD, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.**

Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

**By your appointment they stand this day,  
for all things are your servants.**

If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.

**I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have given me life.**

**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.**

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

**Salutation:** (*The pastor and congregation greet each other in the Lord's presence.*)

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**Collect:** (*Many of these prayers have been used in the church for over 1,500 years. They "collect" the Gospel theme for the day.*)

**P** Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Sit

**Scripture Readings:** (*Jesus speaks to us in His Word as our crucified and risen Savior.*)

**First Reading**

*Acts 17:16-31*

**P** Today's First reading is from Acts, the seventeenth chapter

<sup>16</sup>Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

"In him we live and move and have our being";  
as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we are indeed his offspring."

<sup>29</sup>Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man

whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 Peter 3:13-22*

**P** Today's Epistle reading is from 1 Peter, the third chapter.

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*John 14:15-21*

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

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

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

<sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

<sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Creed:** *(God works faith in us by His Word that we hear in Scripture. We confess that faith using one of three creeds that the church has used throughout the years and across the world.)*

## **Nicene Creed**

**☩ I believe in one God,**

**the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,**

**being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;**

**who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;**

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord and giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day:** *(This hymn especially relates to the Gospel theme for the day. Each hymn provides a way for us to hear God's Word set to music.)*

**Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

LSB 556 sts. 6-10

- |    |   |   |  |
|----|---|---|--|
| 6  | The Son obeyed His Father's will,<br>Was born of virgin mother;<br>And God's good pleasure to fulfill,<br>He came to be my brother.<br>His royal pow'r disguised He bore;<br>A servant's form, like mine, He wore<br>To lead the devil captive.                         | 7 | To me He said: "Stay close to Me,<br>I am your rock and castle.<br>Your ransom I Myself will be;<br>For you I strive and wrestle.<br>For I am yours, and you are Mine,<br>And where I am you may remain;<br>The foe shall not divide us. |
| 8  | "Though he will shed My precious blood,<br>Me of My life bereaving,<br>All this I suffer for your good;<br>Be steadfast and believing.<br>Life will from death the vict'ry win;<br>My innocence shall bear your sin,<br>And you are blest forever.                      | 9 | "Now to My Father I depart,<br>From earth to heav'n ascending,<br>And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,<br>The Holy Spirit sending;<br>In trouble He will comfort you<br>And teach you always to be true<br>And into truth shall guide you.    |
| 10 | "What I on earth have done and taught<br>Guide all your life and teaching;<br>So shall the kingdom's work be wrought<br>And honored in your preaching.<br>But watch lest foes with base alloy<br>The heav'nly treasure should destroy;<br>This final word I leave you." |   |  |

**Sermon**      **"The Triune God Does Not Socially Distance from Us"**      *John 14:15-21*  
*(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)*

**Votum**

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- G** **Amen.**

**Offertory:** *(The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.)*

**Create in Me**

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way



from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
 and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

**Prayer of the Church:** *(The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)*

- P** let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

*Close of the Prayers*

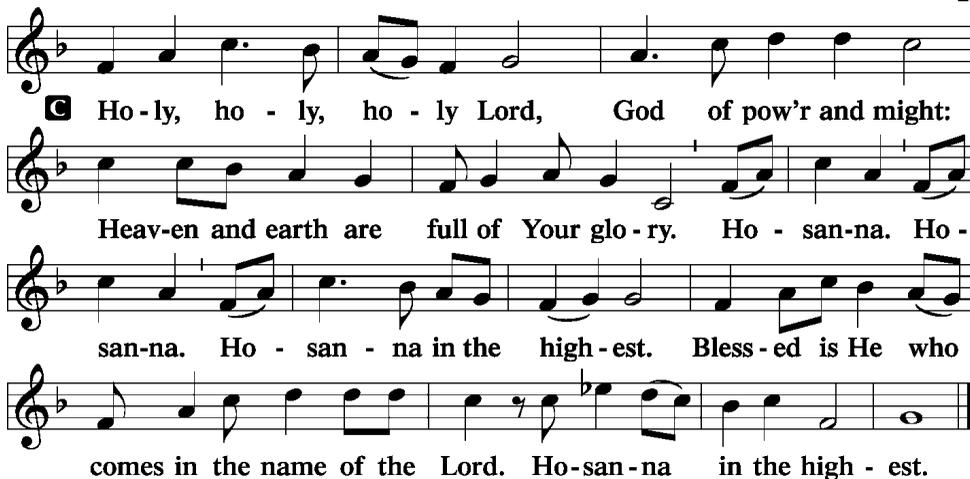
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

**Service of the Sacrament**

**Preface:** *(The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.)* LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus:** (Latin for “holy.” The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, “Holy, Holy, Holy!” to welcome our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9).) LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer:** (We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us.) LSB 162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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.**

**Words of Our Lord:** (We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.) LSB 162

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**Pax Domini:** (Latin for “The peace of the Lord.” The pastor holds the body and blood of Jesus before the congregation and speaks the Lord's peace as the very Gospel.) LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

**Agnus Dei:** (*Latin for “Lamb of God.” As John the Baptist cried (John 1:29), so we sing to Christ, our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.*) LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

## Distribution

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.
- C** Amen.

**Post-Communion Collect:** (*We thank God for all He has done in the Sacrament and ask that it would show forth in our lives.*)

- P** Let us pray.  
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

**Benediction:** (*Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).*) LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Sit

# Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your  
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that  
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.  
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
strife And lead us out of death to life.

## 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

### DISMISSAL

### POSTLUDE

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to joyfully and enthusiastically  
Model and share the gospel with the lost.**

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### Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service

8:30. Elders: C. Johannessen  
Vince Kaiser

10am Elders Kerry Becker  
Bert Bunte

Trustees: Allan Hancock  
Johnnie Kalina

Organist(s): June Parker  
Esther Wolff  
Kim Appel  
Ruth Eaton

May. Altar Guild: Helen Fleck  
Becky Watson

### **Ongoing Worship Services at Grace**

In order to continue to receive the gifts of God in the Divine Service together at Grace, all the while protecting the physical health of our neighbors during this time of pandemic, the following plan has been put in place by our elders for the coming weeks:

- 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. Each week, 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. Individual cups and the chalice will both continue to be offered; the purificator, used to wipe the chalice, will be soaked in neutral spirit with extremely high alcohol content in order to sanitize the chalice between communicants
- 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 Increased Gatherings**

As Grace gathers together for worship again, it is important that we are able to prepare our facilities properly with appropriate cleaning supplies. 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, disinfecting 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!

### **Worship for the Ascension of Our Lord**

At 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 21, we are planning an outdoor worship service to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord. Please plan to bring lawn chairs for your use in order to avoid the need to sanitize as many of the church's chairs before and after the service. We will have an area of the parking lot marked off where we will sit, with households socially distant from one another. If the weather does not permit an outdoor gathering, our Ascension service will take place online, streamed through our church's Facebook page. Please make plans to join us and rejoice in the fact that our Savior and Brother, Jesus Christ, rules over us as our good and gracious King!

### **Visit with Pastor**

If you need to contact Pastor Appel, you can do so via e-mail ([timothyappel@gmail.com](mailto:timothyappel@gmail.com)) or phone (512-237-2108 at church or 512-237-9664 at home). Pastor Appel is normally in the office between 9:00am and 12:00 noon, Monday through Thursday. He is available in the afternoons as well, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits. If you are unable to reach Pastor, please contact your Elder (listed on bulletin board outside of Office).

### **Online Resources**

Each week, our congregation live streams the 10:00 AM Sunday morning on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/](http://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/)). If you are unable to be in worship on a particular week, this is a great way that you can still hear the Word of God. It's also a great way to introduce someone to our congregation and the good news about Jesus. You can also go back and listen to sermons from previous weeks. Bulletins and newsletters are also available online at our website, [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org).

### **KFUO Bible Study Resources**

Please make use of the fantastic resources for growth in your Christian faith produced by the LCMS radio station, KFUO, where Pastor Appel hosts the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, every weekday morning at 8 AM. This week on [kfu.org](http://kfu.org), study Mark 8-12 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), dig into Romans 9-11 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and join Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller for a curious topic on Cross Defense (5/18 at 2:00 p.m. CT). Find these programs and more on demand at [kfu.org](http://kfu.org).

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

### **The Ascension of Our Lord**

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11  
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23  
Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

**May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

First Reading: Acts 1:12-26  
Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11  
Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11



### **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](mailto: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.