

July 12th, 2020
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



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: *As “the rain and the snow come down from heaven” and “water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout” (Is. 55:10), so the Word of God accomplishes the purpose for which He speaks it, granting joy and peace through the forgiveness of sins and producing the fruits of faith and love in those who are called by His name. Christ Jesus, the incarnate Word, has established the name of the Lord as “an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off” (Is. 55:13). He opens our ears to hear, our minds to understand and our hearts to believe His Word, lest the evil one come and snatch it away. He thus transforms our rocky hearts into good soil, which clings to the Gospel and “indeed bears fruit” (Matt. 13:23). He is Himself the firstfruits of all who “have received the Spirit of adoption as sons” (Rom. 8:15). Thus being “led by the Spirit of God,” we are not afraid, but we cry out in faith to our Father in heaven (Rom. 8:14–15). For as we suffer with Christ, the beloved Son, so shall we “also be glorified with him” (Rom. 8:17).*

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.

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

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

LSB 901



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me, Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

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 ✠ 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 † 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. 103:15-19; antiphon: Ps. 103:8

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;**

for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

**The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.**

**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 LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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.*)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

P Today's Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter.

¹⁰"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²"For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 8:12-17

P Today's Epistle reading is from Romans, the eighth chapter.

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of

God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

⁹He who has ears, let him hear."

...¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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.)*

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

LSB 577



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Sermon “The Battle Against God’s Word”

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God’s Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)

Votum

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

Stand

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** Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

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 meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection

opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore 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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

LSB 582

God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for-
ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way, In death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its
teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

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

July 12th, 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

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 8:30am | C. Johannessen | Organist(s): | June Parker |
| Elders: | Galen Bunte | | Esther Wolff |
| 10am Elders: | Tommy Oates | | Kim Appel |
| | Davey Kadlecek | | Ruth Eaton |
| Trustees: | Ed Randle | July Altar | Nelda Rohde |
| | Corey Mack | Guild: | Wendy Rohde |

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!

Visit with Pastor

If you need to contact Pastor Appel, you can do so via e-mail (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/). 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.

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 kfuo.org**, study Judges 4-7 on Sharper Iron's Wisdom from Above series (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), learn more about how play affected mental health on Mental Health Monday with Deaconess Heidi Goehmann (7/13 at 9:00 a.m. CT), and study Exodus 26-30 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find these program on your favorite podcasting app!

July 19th, 2020.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:18-27

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43



Summer Office Hours

July office hours will be 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Monday to Thursday. Friday and holidays will be by appointment only. Please drop by for a visit!

Plans for 2020-2021

Covid-19 has changed so much of what “normal” life looks like. Faith Lutheran High School understands the seriousness of the virus and is committed to helping mitigate the spread of it. However, we are also confident that our school environment, small class sizes and safety precautions will enable us to be back on campus full time in August. Please contact us to learn more about the safety procedures in place at FLHS.

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is underway. 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, in-person education? Check out FLHS!! Call (979) 242-2889 today!

Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers and support you have offered on behalf of FLHS. We are anxiously preparing for another year, and anticipating our first graduating class. We ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers and financial gifts as our ministry grows. God continues to bless our ministry and YOU do as well. Thank you!

Amazon Smile and Wish List

Did you know Faith Lutheran High School is on Amazon Smile? After you select FLHS as the charity of your choice, everytime you purchase something from Amazon Smile, FLHS will receive a donation.

FLHS has also created a wish list on Amazon, for needed materials for the upcoming school year. The easiest way to find it is by clicking on the link on the FLHS Facebook page or website. Thank you for your generous support!

Thrivent Action Team Grants

If you are a Thrivent member willing to submit an application for a \$250 grant to be used on projects at Faith, please contact Nikki Kueck by calling (979)242-2889. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school. *Each Thrivent member has 2 grants they are eligible to receive each calendar year.