

November 15th, 2020
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost



TALENTS + INVEST

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 Day of the Lord is “near and hastening fast,” and it will be “a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation” (Zeph. 1:14, 15). The Lord will search out and punish “the men who are complacent” concerning His Word, “who fill their master’s house with violence and fraud” (Zeph. 1:9, 12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: “Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them” (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are “good and faithful” stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and “the master of those servants” settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, “God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:9). Therefore, let us also “put on the breastplate of faith and love” in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).*

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

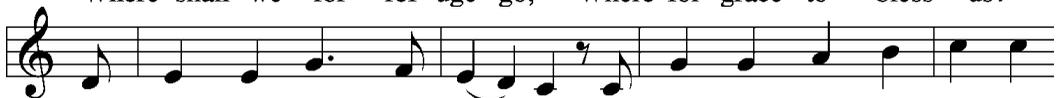
WELCOME



1 In the ver - y midst of life Snares of death sur - round us;
 2 In the midst of death's dark vale Pow'rs of hell o'er - take us.
 3 In the midst of ut - ter woe When our sins op - press us,



Who shall help us in the strife Lest the foe con - found us?
 Who will help when they as - sail, Who se - cure will make us?
 Where shall we for ref - uge go, Where for grace to bless us?



Thou on - ly, Lord, Thou on - ly! We mourn that we have great - ly
 Thou on - ly, Lord, Thou on - ly! Thy heart is moved with ten - der -
 To Thee, Lord Je - sus, on - ly! Thy pre - cious blood was shed to



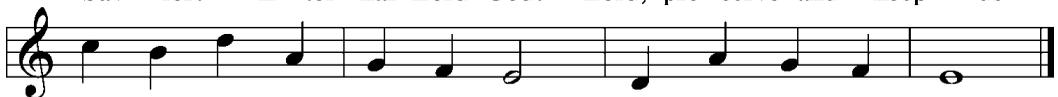
erred, That our sins Thy wrath have stirred. Ho - ly and righ - teous God!
 ness, Pit - ies us in our dis - tress. Ho - ly and righ - teous God!
 win Full a - tone - ment for our sin. Ho - ly and righ - teous God!



Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful
 Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful
 Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful



Sav - ior! E - ter - nal Lord God! Save us lest we per - ish
 Sav - ior! E - ter - nal Lord God! Save us from the ter - ror
 Sav - ior! E - ter - nal Lord God! Lord, pre - serve and keep us



In the bit - ter pangs of death. Have mer - cy, O Lord!
 Of the fi - ery pit of hell. Have mer - cy, O Lord!
 In the peace that faith can give. Have mer - cy, O Lord!

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. 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: Ps. 143:1

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

**Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.**

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

I ponder the work of your hands.

**I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

**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.**

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

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.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, 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

Zephaniah 1:7-16

P Today's First reading is from Zephaniah, the first chapter.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.

⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

⁹On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.

¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.

¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'

¹³Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.”
¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
¹⁵A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

P Today's Epistle reading is from 1 Thessalonians, the fifth chapter.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

¹⁴For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and

dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

LSB 508



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
 2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
 3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
 And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
 What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
 Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
 wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
 dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
 trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
 might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
 known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
 judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

6 May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

Sermon “Live by Faith until Jesus Returns”

Matthew 25:14

(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.

C 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

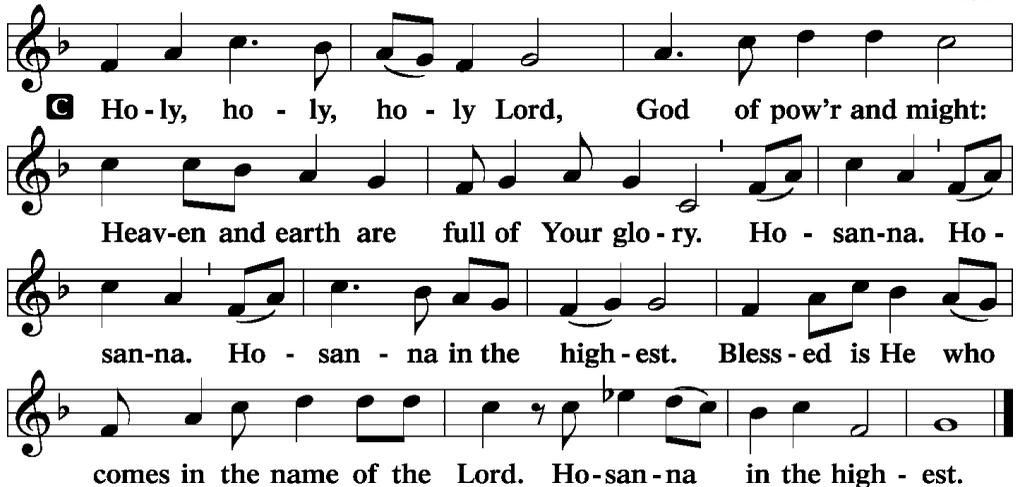
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

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 good, 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

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

November 15th, 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 | Tommy Oates | Organist(s): | June Parker |
| Elders: | Brad Zimmerhanel | | Esther Wolff |
| 10am Elders: | Bert Bunte | | Kim Appel |
| | Jack Page | | Ruth Eaton |
| Trustees: | Allan Hancock | Altar | June Parker |
| | Johnnie Kalina | Guild: | Libby Caldwell |

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. 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. In accordance with current city and state ordinances, those who come to in-person worship should wear a mask or other face covering.
- 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 worshippers.

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**, finish 2 Timothy and begin Titus on Sharper Iron's "The Word is Trustworthy" series (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study a curious theological topic on Cross Defense (11/16 at 2:00 p.m. CT), consider how our Lutheran Confessions tie into our life in the church on Concord Matters (11/17 at 2:00 p.m. CT), and continue studying 2 Samuel on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts!

Family Sunday School



Continuing at least through the end of 2020, Grace is having a family Sunday school class. This class is intended for anyone and everyone; whether you are single or married or have lots of kids or have no kids, you are welcome to join us to learn God's Word together. We start each week about 11:10 am, or as quickly as we are able after the 10:00 am service ends (if you attend the 8:30 am service, plan to come back and start gathering in the parish hall at 11:00 am). Tables are spaced appropriately throughout the parish hall, with one family per table. Pastor introduces a new Bible story each week, and our learning includes both activities done as individual families and as a large group. We also include a hymn and a craft each week. We finish about 11:45 am. Please join us to learn God's Word together as families and as a congregation!

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Our congregation gathers on **Wednesday, November 25 at 7 PM** to give thanks to God for all that He has done and continues to do through His Son Jesus Christ. As a part of our service that evening, it is our congregation's custom to receive donations for the Smithville Food Pantry (due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not share loaves of bread this year). Donations of non-perishable food items to the Smithville Food Pantry may be brought to church all month long through Thanksgiving Eve. Even though Thanksgiving may look different in our country this year, the blessings of our heavenly Father still abound far more than we could ever ask. Please make plans to join us for this special worship service.

Poinsettias for Christmas



The LWML is selling poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary during the upcoming celebration of our God's birth on Christmas. Please indicate how many poinsettias you would like to purchase on the sign up sheet in the Narthex; each one is \$10. Payment can be placed in the envelope hanging by the sign up sheet; checks should be made out to "Grace Lutheran LWML."

LWML Christmas Card Sale

Are you in need of Christmas cards? Check out the selection provided by the LWML in the Narthex. The cost of cards is indicated on each box. Payment can be placed in the container on the table; checks should be made out to "Grace Lutheran LWML."

November 22nd, 2020.

Last Sunday of the Church Year

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46



Thanksgiving Chapel and Feast

Join us Wednesday, November 18th, beginning at 10:30 am for our 4th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Rev. Thomas Obersat will be leading us in worship and some students will be assisting with music. Stay and fellowship with us during our pot-luck Thanksgiving feast lunch, immediately following chapel. Students are encouraged to invite their families and friends to join us for this wonderful holiday celebration and fellowship!

*Students and guests are asked to bring a holiday dish to share. Mrs. Kueck will make the turkeys, but sides and desserts are welcome!

Accreditation Visit

The FLHS had a very successful accreditation visit on November 8th - 10th. FLHS has been recommended for accreditation in good standing, with no major deficiencies. Praise the Lord for the wonderful blessings He continues to bestow on FLHS.

The visiting team was able to identify some major strengths of FLHS as noted below:

- The faculty of FLHS are intentional about creating and fostering a culture and climate that exemplifies the mission and ministry of the school.
- The variety of course offerings surpasses the expectation for a school of this size.
- The faculty of FLHS have genuine care and concern for the students and each other, which creates a positive, supportive family atmosphere.
- FLHS does an excellent job of offering struggling students opportunities for additional academic support through 1:1 instruction, homework support, and Power Hour.

Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

Thanksgiving Break

FLHS offices will be closed for Thanksgiving Break from November 23rd to November 27th. Have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday!

Thank you!

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!