

February 7th, 2021
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



HE WENT
THROUGHOUT
GALILEE.
PROCLAIMING
the MESSAGE
in THEIR
SYNOGOGUES

MARK 1:39

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI ~ SYNOD
308 Byrne Street
Smithville, TX 78957
512-237-2108
Divine Service 10 AM

Pastor Timothy Appel



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”

In our readings today: *The Lord alone “is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth” (Is. 40:28). He “sits above the circle of the earth” and “stretches out the heavens like a curtain” (Is. 40:22). Yet, His almighty power is demonstrated chiefly by His mercy and compassion. “He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength” (Is. 40:29). The only begotten Son of the Father, the very Word by whom all things were made, becomes flesh and takes all the poverty and weakness of our sin and death upon Himself, bearing it in His body to the cross. As He dies for us there, He also raises us up, a new creation, in His resurrection from the dead. Thus, by the preaching of this Word, He heals “many who were sick with various diseases,” and He casts out “many demons” (Mark 1:34, 39). And His preaching continues through those whom He has sent, who are “entrusted with a stewardship” to “preach the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:16–17). Thus, we are set free by the Word of Christ, and we exercise our freedom in loving service to others.*

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 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun Thy dai - ly
 2 In con - ver - sa - tion be sin - cere, Thy con - science
 3 All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast re -
 4 Lord, I my vows to Thee re - new; Dis - perse my



stage of du - ty run; Shake off dull sloth and
 as the noon - day clear; Think how the all - see - ing
 freshed me while I slept; Grant, Lord, when I from
 sins as morn - ing dew; Guard my first springs of



joy - ful rise To pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 God thy ways And all thy se - cret thoughts sur - veys.
 death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
 thought and will And with Thy - self my spir - it fill.
 5 Direct, control, suggest this day Δ6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 All I design or do or say Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 That all my pow'rs with all their might Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
 In Thy sole glory may unite. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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. 13:3–5; antiphon: Ps. 13:6

I will sing to the LORD,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;

light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"

lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

But I have trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

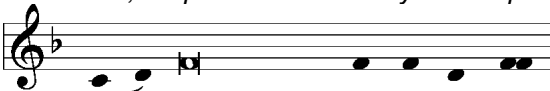
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I will sing to the LORD,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Kyrie: *(Shortened form of the Greek "Kyrie eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy." In the presence of Jesus, we plead for His mercy and help in our time of need.)*

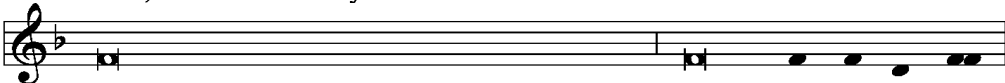
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



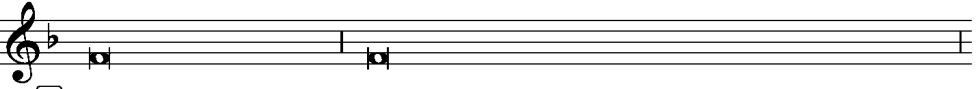
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



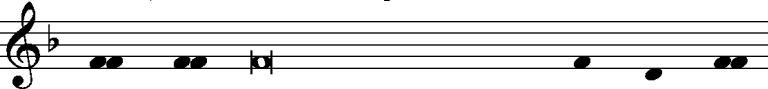
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



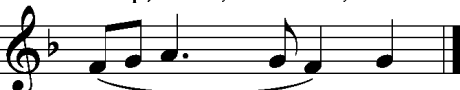
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise: (Trusting God's promise of mercy, we join the church in heaven and on earth in a song of praise to our Creator, Savior, and Comforter.)

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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



P The Lord be with you.

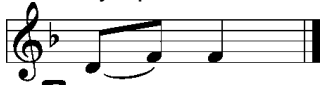


C And al - so with you.

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 Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

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

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:21–31

P Today's Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the fortieth chapter

²¹Do you not know? Do you not hear?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

²³who brings princes to nothing,

and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows on them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,

that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:

who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,

calling them all by name,

by the greatness of his might,

and because he is strong in power

not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual: (*The Gradual is a portion of a psalm or other Scripture passage that responds to the Old Testament reading and transitions us toward the words of Jesus in the Gospel.*)

Ps. 117:1-2a; 96:8

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:16–27

P Today's Epistle reading is from 1 Corinthians, the ninth chapter.

¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

*Mark 1:29–39***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁹And immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her.

³¹And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you."

³⁸And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

LSB 398



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
 To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
 All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
 To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;



To take a - way trans-gres-sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
Whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, Were pre-cious in His sight.
And righ-teous-ness in foun-tains From hill to val - ley flow.
His king-dom still in - creas-ing, A kingdom with - out end.

5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—
That name to us is Love.

Sermon “Jesus Hears Your Prayers and Prays for You”

Mark 1:29-39

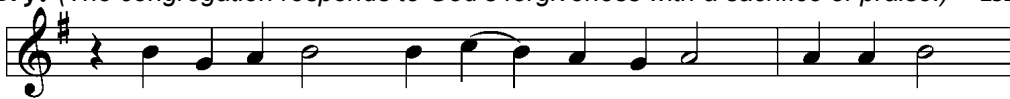
(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)

Votum

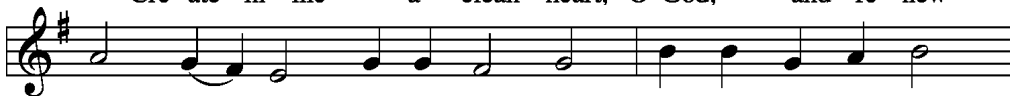
- The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- Amen.

Stand

Offertory: *(The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.)* LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new



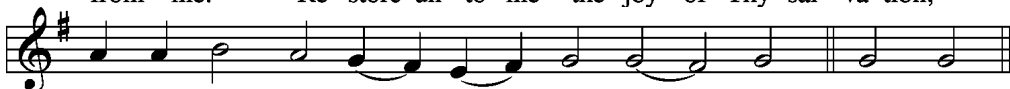
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way



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 194



P The Lord be with you.



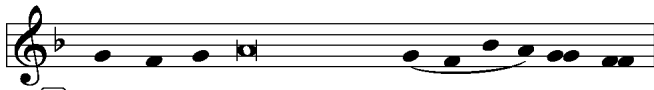
C And al - so with you.



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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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 195

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.*)

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.

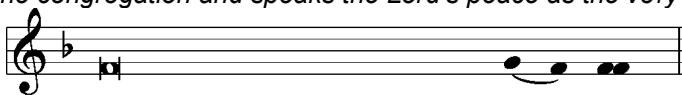
Words of Our Lord: (*We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.*)

LSB 197

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 al - ways.

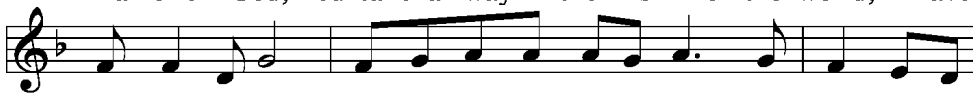


A - men.

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



A 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

Stand

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.

A Amen.

Post-Communion Cantic: (Having received Christ in our mouths and into our lives in the Sacrament, we give thanks and go forth in peace.)

Thank the Lord

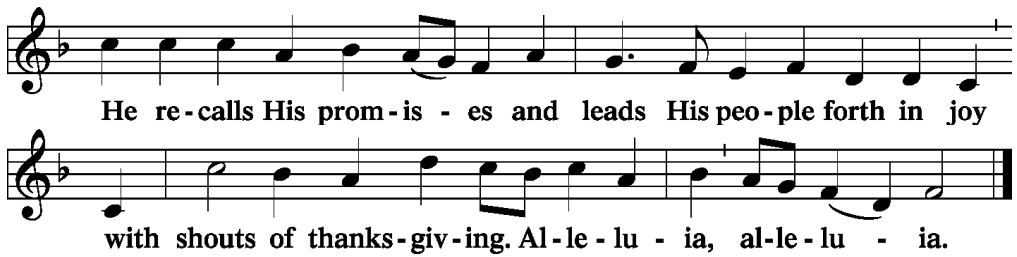
LSB 164



A Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

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

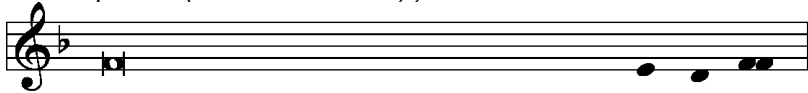
P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

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 A - men.

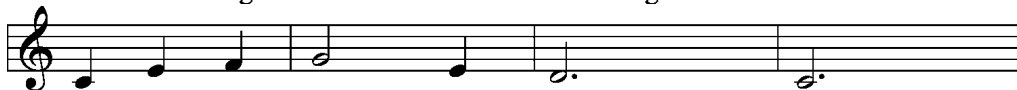
Sit

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB 411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.



Refrain

In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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

February 7th, 2021

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

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Email: gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com
Web Site: www.glcs.org

Learning Center Director, Angel Hurst
401 Wilkes Street, Smithville, TX 78957
Office Phone: 512-360-2800
Fax Number: 512-237-5990
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Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service

8:30am Galen Bunte Organist(s): June Parker
Elders: Kerry Becker Esther Wolff
10am Elders: Brad Zimmerhanel Kim Appel
Colby Zimmerhanel Ruth Eaton
Trustees: Altar Becky Watson
Guild: Helen Fleck

AT GRACE THIS WEEK

<u>Sun. Feb. 7</u>	<u>Mon Feb. 8</u>	<u>Tue. Feb. 9</u>	<u>Wed. Feb. 10</u>
8:30am-Worship/Communion 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study		9am- Pastor Circuit Mtg	5:30pm- Youth Confirmation
<u>Thurs. Feb. 11</u>	<u>Fri. Feb. 12</u>	<u>Sat. Feb. 13</u>	<u>Sun. Feb. 14</u>
			8:30am-Worship/Communion 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study

Ongoing Worship Services at Grace

At their February meeting, the Board of Elders set Sunday, March 7, as the target date to begin the transition back to one worship service at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. Here are some important details:

- Appropriate distancing will be maintained by making use of our entire facility. In addition to continuing the practice of roping off pews in the sanctuary, the balcony and parish hall will both be available. Some chairs will be set up ahead of time in the parish hall in those places that allow for the best view of the sanctuary, but you may also choose to use the rest of the parish hall to sit farther away, according to your preference. You will still be able to hear, receive the Lord's Body and Blood, and be together with your brothers and sisters, even at a distance.
- When you arrive at church, please go in an expedient manner to your seat and remain there, as much as you are able. Similarly, when you leave, please avoid lingering in the narthex and other common areas as much as possible.
- Please continue to wear a mask or face-covering to worship and throughout as much of your time at worship as possible, both in accordance with the ordinances from our leaders and especially out of our love for each other as fellow Christians, knowing that others may have greater risk or concern.

- The online signup will be gradually phased out. For the first week, however, it will be especially helpful for you to sign up in advance if you are planning to come in order to allow for better advance preparations of the physical set up.
- For the time being, family Sunday school will continue to be offered after worship in order to continue to allow for appropriate distancing, both in Sunday school and as people are coming and going to and from worship.

Please note that this plan is subject to change based on the continuing conditions of the pandemic and feedback from you. We welcome your questions, comments, and concerns as preparations are made to return to one worship service; please be in touch with any member of the Board of Elders or with Pastor Appel. We ask for your patience and prayers as we move once again to worshipping all together as a congregation.

Opportunities to Receive God's Gifts Individually

For those who are not yet attending in-person worship, opportunities to receive the gifts of God through other means continue to be available. Please be in touch with me to let me know how I can deliver these gifts of God to you. Even in the midst of a pandemic, no Christian should go without God's gifts in Word and Sacrament. Options include, but are not limited to:

- Live stream the 10:00 AM service on our Facebook page
- Individual appointment to receive Jesus' Body and Blood at Grace
- Socially distant outdoor home visit to receive Jesus' Body and Blood

This offer is made in earnest. ***You are not imposing on my time by requesting this of me; this is precisely why God has given time to me.*** Please let me know how I can best serve you in Christ's name during this time! –Pastor Appel

Supplies for Increased Gatherings

As you are able, please consider donating supplies that will continue to help us provide a clean environment here at Grace. The items we need most are disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, and hand sanitizer. Thank you for supporting our congregation 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.

Support Grace Lutheran Learning Center

Our Learning Center continues to navigate the difficult days of the pandemic by God's grace, seeking to serve the children and families of our community with the love of Jesus. As God has blessed you, please prayerfully consider supporting our Learning Center financially. Thank you for your prayers and support of this outreach of our congregation!

KFUO Bible Study Resources

Please make use of the fantastic resources for growth in your Christian faith produced by the LCMS radio station, KFUE, where Pastor Appel hosts the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, every weekday morning at 8 AM. **This week on kfuo.org**, study Galatians on Thy Strong Word with host Rev. Brady Finnern (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), continue in Mark 6-7 on Sharper Iron with host Rev. Timothy Appel (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and worship with us in Daily Chapel weekdays at 10:00 a.m. CT. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or on your podcast app.

Family Sunday School



Family Sunday School continues at Grace! Please join us after the 11:00AM service each Sunday to learn and rejoice in the Word of God together as the family of Jesus here at Grace! 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. 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!

Lent 2021 Services and Offerings

This year, Ash Wednesday is February 17. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the penitential forty-day season of Lent that prepares us for Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Lord. Although we will not be having soup suppers this year due to the ongoing pandemic, each Wednesday during Lent (February 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24) will offer a devotional worship service at 7 PM. This year's Lenten midweek services will focus on the fifth chief part of the Catechism, Confession and Absolution. Our offerings will go to support the mission work of the Lord in three places: our Learning Center, Faith Lutheran High School, and pastoral education costs at Zion Lutheran Church in Schulenburg. Make plans to join us for these Lenten services to grow in the repentance and faith that Jesus gives.

Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday

The imposition of ashes will be offered at the beginning of our 7 PM worship service on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Families will be ushered forward one at a time, in the same manner as Communion. Pastor Appel will also be available that morning from 9 AM-noon or by appointment that afternoon for those who desire to come to receive ashes individually. As with other signs of outward piety that can be helpful to our Christian faith, the imposition of ashes has always been and continues to be an optional practice. Should you choose to refrain this year, please know that you remain marked as Jesus' own because you are baptized into Him.

February 14th, 2021.

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-13 (14-18); 4:1-6

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-9



New Student Registration

Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to March 12, 2021 will have registration fees waived for the 2021-2022 school year. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com.

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.

Spring Raffle

FLHS raffle tickets are now available!! Tickets are \$20 each. Drawing will be the week of March 8-12, during National Lutheran Schools Week. Items include:

- Exotic Deer Hunt with Lodging (no meals)
- Flounder Giggling Trip on Texas Coast
- 3 Nights at Pelican Bay Resort, Rockport
- Custom Fire Pit
- \$500 Visa Gift Card
- Custom Cedar Carved piece and Commemorative Silver Coin
- Handmade Quilt (Queen)
- Dessert a Month for a yYear
- Casserole a Month for a Year

Limited amount of tickets available - get yours today! Please contact any FLHS delegate, student, staff or call (979) 242-2889 to get your tickets!!

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am.

Amazon Smile

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. Thank you!

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! Thank you!