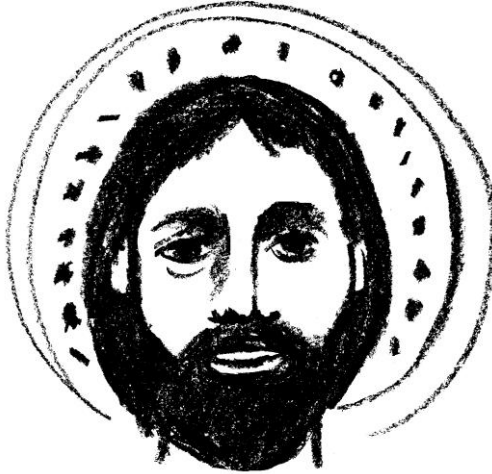


February 14th, 2021
The Transfiguration of Our Lord



*It is the
brightness of
his glory that is
seen in the face
of JESUS CHRIST*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6

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: *It was “a hard thing” that Elisha asked, but by his persistence he was able to see the prophet Elijah being taken “by a whirlwind into heaven.” Although “chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them,” Elisha received Elijah’s cloak and a “double portion” of his spirit for preaching the Lord’s Word (2 Kings 2:9–11). It was a hard thing, too, for Israel to see Moses and come near to him, when “the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God” (Ex. 34:29–30). Therefore, after “he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai,” Moses “put a veil over his face” (Ex. 34:32–33). Only the Word of the Gospel lifts the veil, and “only through Christ is it taken away” (2 Cor. 3:14). Thus are we able to behold “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,” who is “the image of God” (2 Cor. 4:4–6). For the Law and the prophets are all fulfilled in Him. Therefore, “listen to him,” and fix your sights on “Jesus only” (Mark 9:7–8).*

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

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in
3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
4 Al-might-y Fa-ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!
from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.
not yet be-gun Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!



Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas-s
In Your one bod-y let us be As liv-ing branch-
Your Word and Spir-it, flesh and blood Re-fresh our souls
Your Son has ran-somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on-ly!
es of a tree, Your life our lives sup-ply-ing.
with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear-est trea-sure!
here and a-bove: This is Your great sal-va-tion.



Low-ly, ho-ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic-to-rious,
Now, though dai-ly Earth's deep sad-ness May per-plex us
Let Your mer-cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
Al-le-lu-ia! Christ the liv-ing, To us giv-ing



Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos-sess-ing!
And dis-tress us, Yet with heav'n-ly joy You bless us.
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
Life for-ev-er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev-er!

(stanzas 5 and 6 on next page)

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!

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

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

Ps. 99:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 99:9

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy!

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name!

Holy is he!

The King in his might loves justice.

You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool!

Holy is he!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

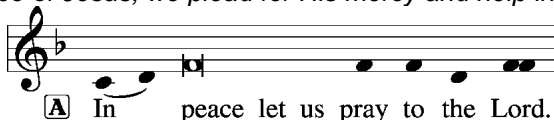
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

for the LORD our God is holy!

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.*)

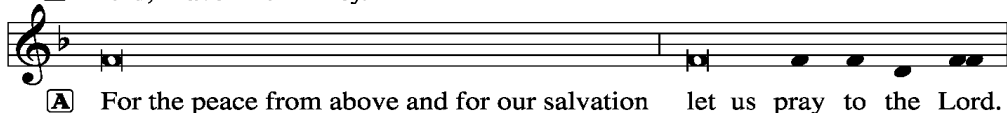
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



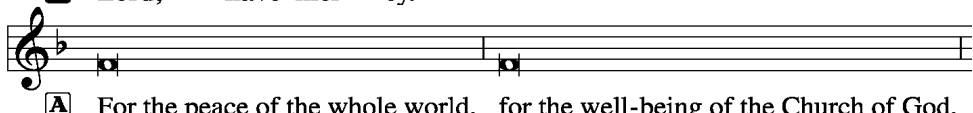
C Lord, have mer - cy.



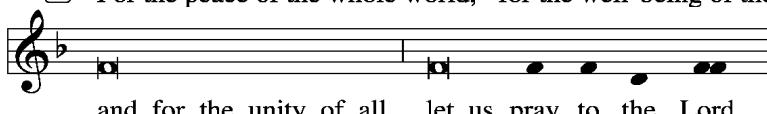
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



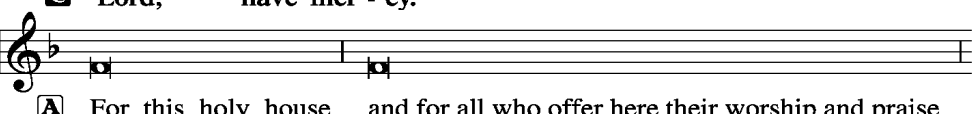
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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-tory 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 God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, 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

2 Kings 2:1-12

P Today's Old Testament reading is from 2 Kings, the second chapter

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **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

2 Corinthians 3:12-13; 4:1-6

P Today's Epistle reading is from 2 Corinthians, the third and fourth chapters.

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end....

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **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 9:2-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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.

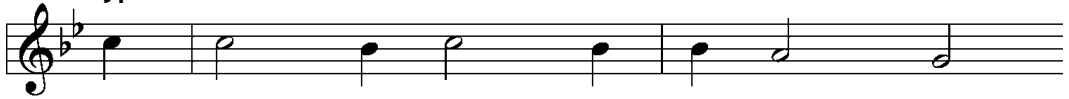
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the 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

O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair

LSB 413



1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high
 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son



Of glo - ry that the Church may share,
 The in - car - nate Lord holds con - verse high;
 Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day
 By this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y,
 And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one,



Which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,
 And from the cloud the Ho - ly One
 What glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove
 For which in joy - ful strains we raise
 We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace



Where bright - er than the sun He glows!
 Bears rec - ord to the on - ly Son.
 Who joy in God with per - fect love.
 The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
 To see Thy glo - ry face to face.

Sermon "Speaking of Mountains"

Mark 9:2-9

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

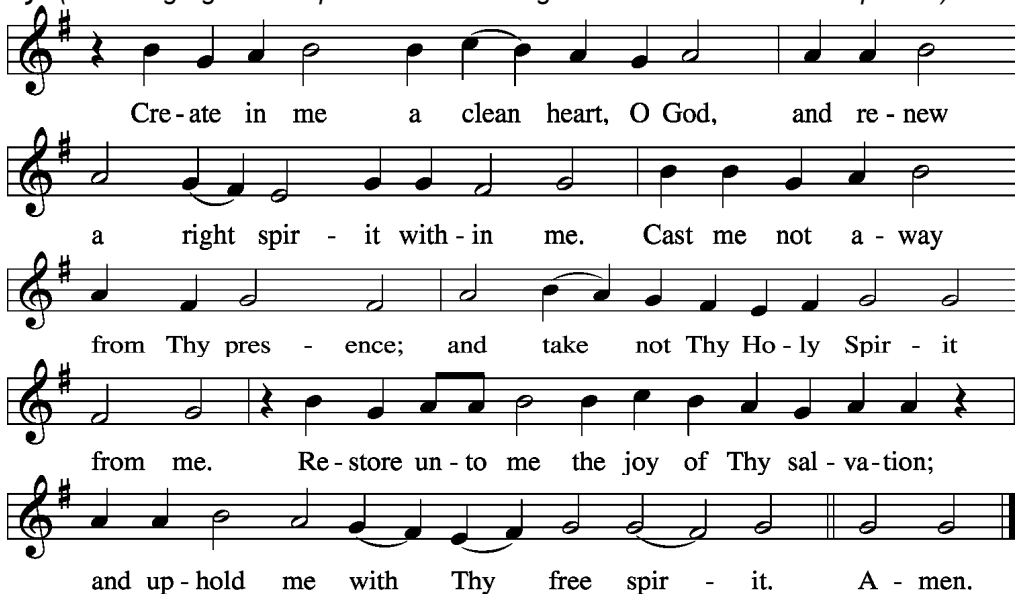
Votum

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.)* 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



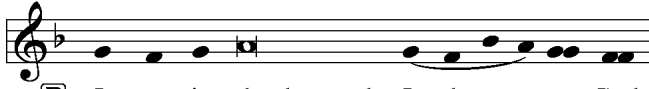
P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.



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



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.)*

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.)*

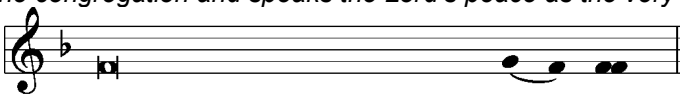
LSB 197

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.



C 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



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

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.
- G** Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle: *(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

G 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.

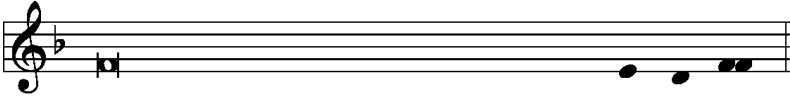
Post-Communion Collect: *(We thank God for all He has done in the Sacrament and ask that it would show forth in our lives.)*

- P** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G A - men.

Benediction

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.

Beautiful Savior

LSB 537



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

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 14th, 2021
The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to joyfully and enthusiastically
Model and share the gospel with the lost.

Grace Lutheran Church
 308 Byrne, Smithville, Tex.78957
 Office Phone: 512-237-2108
 Fax Number: 512 237-2832
 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
 Email: gracelutheranlearningcenter@gmail.com

Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service

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

AT GRACE THIS WEEK

<u>Sun. Feb. 14</u>	<u>Mon Feb. 15</u>	<u>Tue. Feb. 16</u>	<u>Wed. Feb. 17</u>
8:30am-Worship/Communion 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	6pm-GLLC Mtg		5:30pm- Youth Confirmation 7pm- Ash Wednesday Divine Service
<u>Thurs. Feb. 18</u>	<u>Fri. Feb. 19</u>	<u>Sat. Feb. 20</u>	<u>Sun. Feb. 21</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**, hear Midweek Lenten Service from Peace Lutheran in St. Louis on 2/17 at 11:00 a.m. CT, study a curious theological topic on Cross Defense with Rev. Tyrel Bramwell 2/15 at 2:00 p.m. CT, and hear a variety of topics and sacred music weekdays during Midday Moments at 12:00 p.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 17th, 2021.

Ash Wednesday

Old Testament Reading: Joel 2:12-19
Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21st, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 22:1-18
Epistle Reading: James 1:12-18
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15



New Student Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway. Two new students have already enrolled and we are looking to add more students to our family. 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 Year
- 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 Service! This week, Jonathan Kueck will be leading us in chapel on Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am.

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck.

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!