

*March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021*  
*Third Sunday in Lent*



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 rescues His people, Israel, “out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Ex. 20:2) and makes His gracious covenant with them, defined by the Ten Commandments. Since He has become their God by His grace, they shall be His people, having “no other gods” before Him (Ex. 20:3). He is “jealous” for them as a husband for his wife and as a father for his children. He has named them with His name and called them to rest in Him (Ex. 20:5–9). The incarnate Son, Christ Jesus, is likewise jealous for His Father’s house, because it is to be a place of divine grace and Sabbath rest for His people, and not “a house of trade” (John 2:16–17). His zeal consumes Him as He gives up “the temple of his body” to the destruction of the cross, but in three days He raises it up again to be the true temple forever (John 2:17–21). By His crucifixion He cleanses the entire household, and in His resurrection He becomes “wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30).*

**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**

# God Himself Is Present

LSB 907

1 God Him - self is pres - ent: Let us now a - dore Him  
2 God Him - self is pres - ent: Hear the harps re - sound - ing;  
3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,

And with awe ap - pear be - fore Him. God is in His  
See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
Trust - ing on - ly in Your mer - it. Like the ho - ly

tem - ple; All with - in keep si - lence; Hum - bly kneel in  
ho - ly!" Hear the hymn as - cend - ing, Songs of saints and  
an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore You, May I cease - less -

deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone On His throne  
an - gels blend - ing. Bow Your ear To us here:  
ly a - dore You. Let Your will Ev - er still

Is our God and Sav - ior; Praise His name for - ev - er!  
Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Your Church now rais - es.  
Rule Your Church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

Stand

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

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

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

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

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

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

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

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

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

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

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

*Ps. 69:14–16; antiphon: Ps. 69:9*

For zeal for your house has consumed me,  
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

**Deliver me from sinking in the mire;**

**let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.**

Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,  
or the pit close its mouth over me.

**Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;  
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

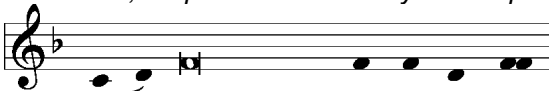
**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

For zeal for your house has consumed me,  
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on 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.)*

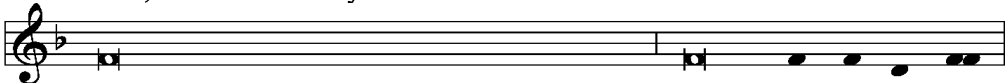
LSB 152



**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.



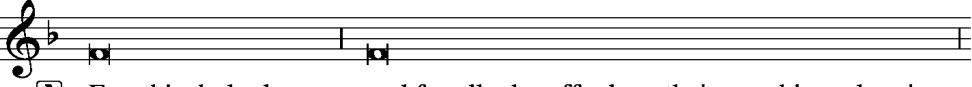
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



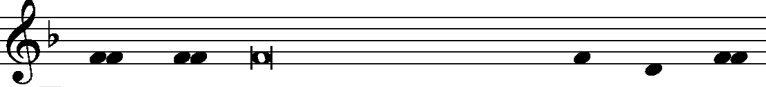
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** A - men.

**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, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

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

### Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 20:1–17*

**P** Today's Old Testament reading is from Exodus, the twentieth chapter

<sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup>"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup>"You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

<sup>8</sup>"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup>"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>"You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>"You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>"You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

**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.*)

*Heb. 12:2*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
**the founder and perfecter of our faith,**  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
**and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 1:18–31*

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

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

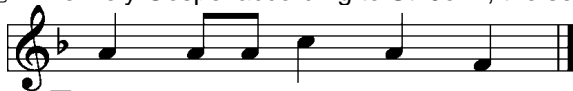
**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*John 2:13–22*

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



**G** **Glo - ry to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup>And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

<sup>18</sup>So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus

answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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



**G** 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

**G** 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  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.





1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when  
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most  
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His  
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how



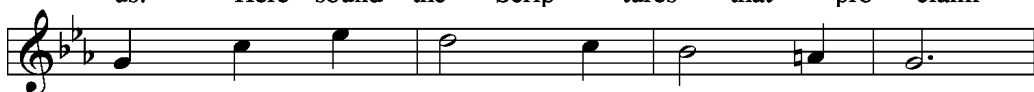
steeples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in  
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His  
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal  
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -  
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -  
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -  
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,  
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove  
 tion. Were we but two His name to tell,  
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,  
 Choos - es to live with us in love,  
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.  
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.  
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.  
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.

5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,  
 That, when the church bells are ringing,  
 Many in saving faith may come  
 Where Christ His message is bringing:  
 "I know My own; My own know Me.  
 You, not the world, My face shall see.  
 My peace I leave with you. Amen."

## Sermon "The Firm Foundation"

Exodus 20:1-17

*(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.



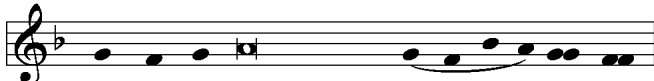
**C** And al - so with you.



**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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

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.**

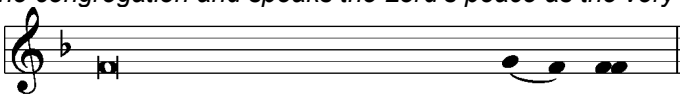
**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**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  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you 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

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's

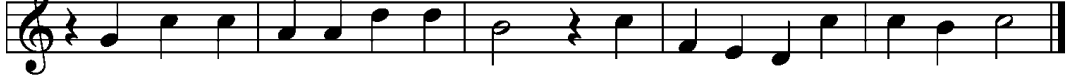


wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in  
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain



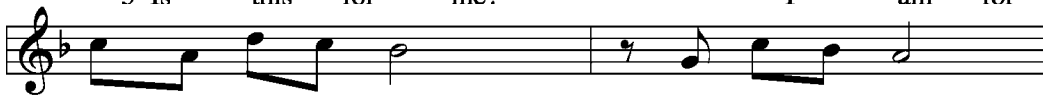
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

# What Is This Bread

LSB 629



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of
live	and	He	should	die	Un -	der
Word	and	prom -	ise	clear,	In	mouth
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be -
				lieve		



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em -	brace	Of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for -	sak -	en
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	His



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

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

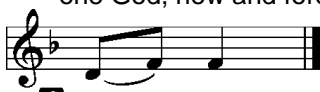
**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

**G** Amen.

**Post-Communion 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.

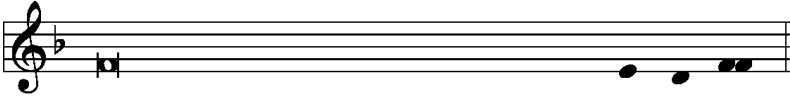
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



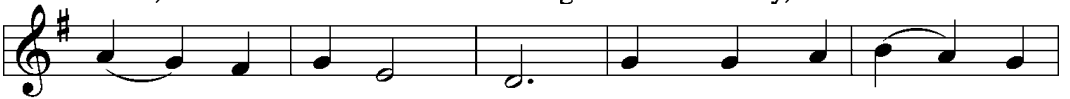
**C** A - men.

**Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain**

LSB 865



1 Lord, help us ev - er to re - tain The Cat - e -  
2 Help us Your ho - ly Law to learn, To mourn our  
3 Hear us, dear Fa - ther, when we pray For need - ed  
4 Lord, when we fall or go a - stray, Ab - solve and



chism's\_\_\_\_\_ doc-trine plain As Lu - ther taught the  
sin and from it turn In faith to You and  
help from day to day That as Your chil - dren  
lift us up, we pray; And through the Sac - ra -



Word of truth In sim - ple style to ten - der youth.  
to Your Son And Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One.  
we may live, Whom You bap - tized and so re - ceived.  
ment in - crease Our faith till we de - part in peace.

**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**

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

Grace Lutheran Church  
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Office Phone: 512-237-2108  
Fax Number: 512 237-2832  
Email: [gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.glcs.org](http://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](mailto:gracelutheranlearningcenter@gmail.com)

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

**Elders:**

**Jack Page  
C. Johannessen  
Tommy Oates  
Bert Bunte**

**Organist(s):**

**June Parker  
Esther Wolff  
Kim Appel  
Ruth Eaton**

**Altar  
Guild:**

**Marilyn Burns  
Mary Lou Oliver**

**AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

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

**Ongoing Worship Services at Grace**

As of Sunday, March 7, we have transitioned 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 recommendations from health authorities and especially out of our love for each other as fellow Christians, knowing that others may have greater risk or concern.
- 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 we 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](mailto:timothyappel@gmail.com)) or phone (512-237-2108 at church or 512-237-9664 at home). Pastor Appel is normally in the office between 9:00am and 12:00 noon, Monday through Thursday. He is available in the afternoons as well, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits. If you are unable to reach Pastor, please contact your Elder (listed on bulletin board outside of Office).

### **Online Resources**

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

### **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, KFUO, where Pastor Appel hosts the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, every weekday morning at 8 AM. **This week on [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org)**, begin the book of Philippians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), hear Midweek Lenten service and organ recital on 3/10 at 11:00 a.m. CT, and hear practical application of our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (3/9 at 2:00 p.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or wherever you get your podcasts.

### **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**

During the penitential forty-day season of Lent that prepares us for Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Lord, we continue with our midweek worship services each Wednesday at 7 PM (March 10, 17, 24). This year's Lenten midweek services 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.

**March 14<sup>th</sup> , 2021**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Epistle Reading: Ephesian 2:1-10

Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21



### **New Student Registration**

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway. **Four 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](http://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**

TODAY is your last chance to get FLHS raffle tickets!! Tickets are \$20 each. Drawing will begin Monday!

### **National Lutheran Schools Week**

Thank you for your continued support of Lutheran Education. As we celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week this week, we are grateful for the opportunity to join with almost 2,000 Lutheran schools and pre-schools across the nation and world who share our mission of sharing the message of Christ with our students each day! Thank you for enabling and allowing us to do this great work for Him

### **Free Wednesday mornings?**

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday. Chapel will be led by Pr. Dustin Beck as a Lenten Worship Service, beginning at 10:30 am.

### **FLHS Annual Good Friday Bake Sale**

Faith Lutheran High School will be hosting its Annual Good Friday Bake Sale on April 2nd at the Classic Bank parking lot! Cookies, pies, cakes, kolaches, cinnamon rolls, homemade noodles, homemade bread, and more will be available from 8 AM till noon, or until we sell out.

**\*BAKERS ARE NEEDED!** We need your help! Donations of any type of baked goods or homemade treats are welcome! Thanks for your continued support of Faith Lutheran High School!

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

As a Thrivent member, you may have Choice Dollars that allow you to designate where the funds go, and by sending them to Faith, you can help us continue in our mission of Instilling Wisdom Today for Faithful Leaders Tomorrow! The deadline to designate your choice dollars from 2020 is **March 31, 2021**.

### **Staff Positions Available**

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2021-2022 academic year! Interested individuals who teach science, social studies, English, Spanish, or electives, or would like to supervise dual credit or study hall students may submit resumes to Faith Lutheran High School, PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960, call (979) 242-2889, or email them to [kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com](mailto:kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com). If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!