

May 9th, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter



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 crucified and risen Lord Jesus is with His Church through the word of His apostles, who “are witnesses of all that he did.” He was anointed by God “with the Holy Spirit and with power,” and “he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,” and so He was with those whom He sent “to preach to the people” (Acts 10:38–42). The Holy Spirit is bestowed on those who hear that apostolic preaching, who are “baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,” so that “everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name” (Acts 10:43–44, 48). For as He came by the water of His Baptism, even to the blood of His Passion, so the Spirit testifies to the truth with “the water and the blood” in the apostolic ministry of the Gospel (1 John 5:6–7). By these means, Christ Jesus speaks to us, that His joy may be in us and that our “joy may be full.” For this purpose, He appointed the apostles to “go and bear fruit” in order to make known His divine friendship to us (John 15:11, 15–16).*

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

This Joyful Eastertide

LSB 482

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
slum - ber Till trump from east to west

Has sprung to life this mor - row:
My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:
Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -
ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

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. 66:1-2, 8-9, 20; antiphon: Ps. 66:16

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

**Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!**

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
**who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**

Blessèd be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from 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.**

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

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.)*

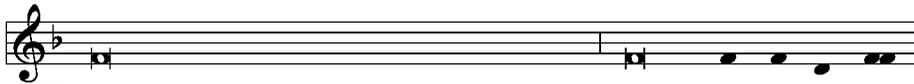
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



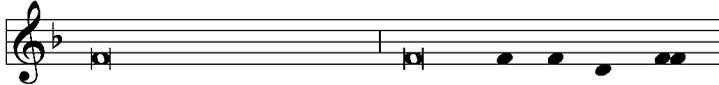
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



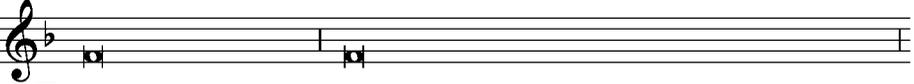
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



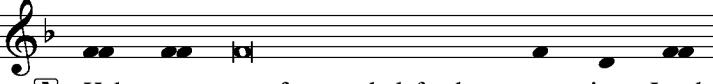
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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



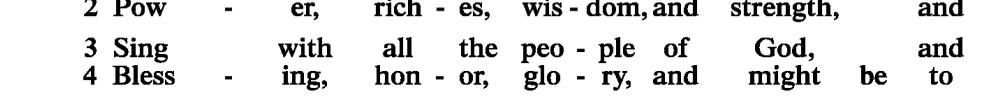
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



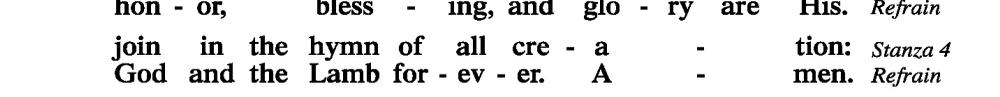
1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
4 Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be-



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 God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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.)*

First Reading

Acts 10:34–48

P Today's First Reading is from Acts, the tenth chapter.

³⁴So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

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.)*

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle

1 John 5:1–8

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

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Common Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

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

John 15:9–17

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁹[Jesus said:] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²^aThis is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

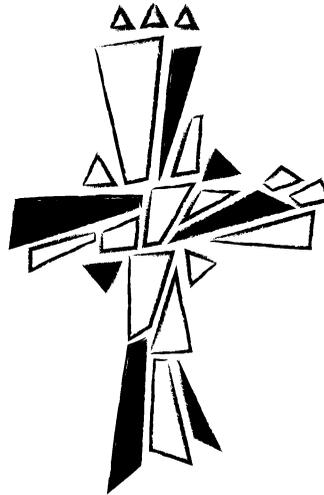
C Praise to You, O Christ.

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

☩ 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



Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

LSB 683



1 Je - sus, Thy bound - less love to me No thought can reach, no
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul May dwell, but Thy pure
 3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to
 4 In suf - f'ring be Thy love my peace, In weak - ness be Thy



tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,
 love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,
 Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,
 love my pow'r; And when the storms of life shall cease,



And reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -
 My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my
 Burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be
 O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, Be Thou my rod and



lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.
 heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.
 all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.
 staff and guide, And draw me safe - ly to Thy side!

Sermon "Christian Joy"

John 15:9-17

(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.
- G** Amen.

Stand

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

Create in Me

LSB 956



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



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



from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
 and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Stand

Prayer of the Church: *(The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)*

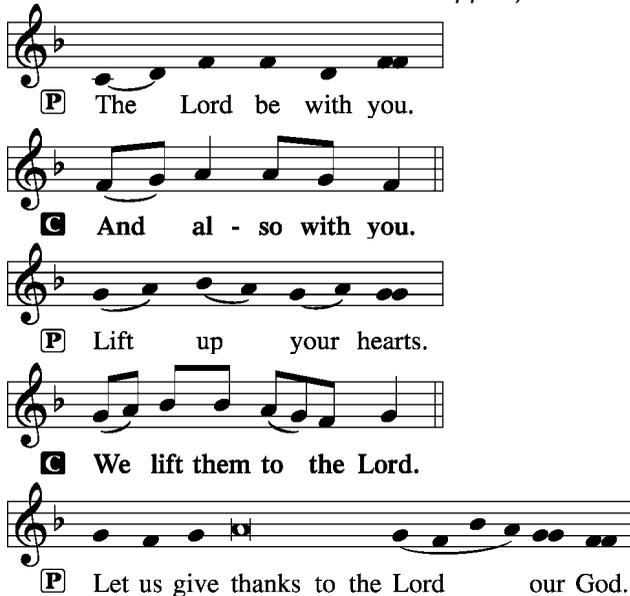
- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

Close of the Prayers

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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface: *(The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.)* LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.

C And 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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: (Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9).) LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer: (We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us.) LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

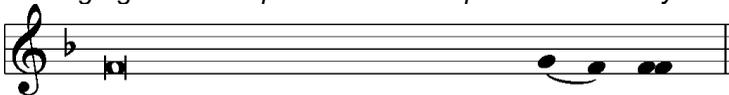
but deliver us from evil.

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

Words of Our Lord: (*We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.*) LSB 162

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My -I- 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 -I- 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

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

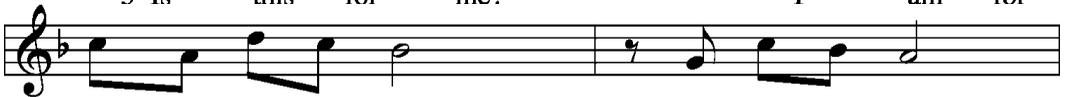
- 5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
To claim my mansion in the skies, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
This then shall be my only plea: For me, and all Thy hands have made,
Jesus hath lived and died for me. An everlasting ransom paid.

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 grace
live and He should die Un - der the rod?
Word and prom - ise clear, In mouth and soul
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.
- C** Amen.

Stand

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



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



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



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy

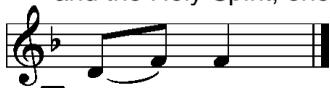


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

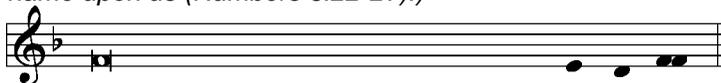
P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C 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

Christ the Eternal Lord

LSB 829



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,
4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,



Whose gifts of grace are free-ly poured On all who name Your name;
Whose time-less teach-ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip-ture's page;
And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;
Our Morn-ing Star in splen-dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,
That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour - ney ends.

- 5 Christ the ascended King
 Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing,
 Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past
 Your voice from heaven's throne
Shall call Your children home at last
 To know as we are known.

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

May 9th, 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

Elders:

**Colby Zimmerhanzel
Tommy Oates**

Organist(s):

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

Altar

Linda Read

Guild:

Frances Mynar

AT GRACE THIS WEEK

<u>Sun. May 9</u>	<u>Mon May 10</u>	<u>Tue. May 11</u>	<u>Wed. May 12</u>
10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	5pm-Quilting	9am-Pastor Circuit Mtg	
<u>Thurs. May 13</u>	<u>Fri. May 14</u>	<u>Sat. May 15</u>	<u>Sun. May 16</u>
7pm-Ascension Service			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) or phone (512-237-2108 at church or 512-237-9664 at home). Pastor Appel is normally in the office between 9:00am and 12:00 noon, Monday through Thursday. He is available in the afternoons as well, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits. If you are unable to reach Pastor, please contact your Elder (listed on bulletin board outside of Office).

Online Resources

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

KFUO Bible Study Resources

Please make use of the fantastic resources for growth in your Christian faith produced by the LCMS radio station, KFUO, where Pastor Appel hosts the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, every weekday morning at 8 AM. **This week on kfuo.org**, finish Jude and begin Jeremiah on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study 1 Kings 11-16 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and learn how our Confessions interact with our daily life as Lutherans on Concord Matters (5/15 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts!

GLLC 50/50 Raffle

The Grace Lutheran Learning Center Board is sponsoring a 50/50 raffle for our spring fundraiser. Tickets are available from any GLLC Board member beginning today, April 18, until Sunday, May 23. The winner will be drawn and announced on Monday, May 24. Each ticket is \$10, and a maximum of 400 tickets will be sold. GLLC receives half of the proceeds from ticket sales; the winner receives the rest. Please consider participating to support our Learning Center!

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!



The Ascension of Our Lord



Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended visibly into heaven. This is an important event in the story of our salvation, so much so that we confess it each week in the Creed. This year, Ascension Day falls on **Thursday, May 13th**. To celebrate Jesus' reign as our good and gracious King, we will have a **Divine Service with Holy Communion at 7 PM** in the Sanctuary. Please join us on May 30 as we give thanks for our ascended and reigning Lord!

May 13th, 2021

The Ascension of Our Lord

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

May 16th, 2021

Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 1:12-26
Epistle Reading: 1 John 5:9-15
Gospel Reading: John 17:11b-19



The Spring Thing!

FLHS is proud to present The Spring Thing! This will be a showcase of our students' work in the fine art department. Please join us Wednesday, May 12th, at 7pm in the fellowship hall at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Graduation

The first senior class of Faith Lutheran High School will be graduating this May. Graduation will be Saturday, May 29th at 1:30 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Congratulations to Valedictorian - Magdalena Obersat and Salutatorian - Andrew Laake. Please join us as we celebrate all our seniors and celebrate their accomplishments.

Youth Camps

Summer camps are back! We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this spring and summer. Ages are for grades NEXT school year.

June 7-9 - Volleyball - Grade 3 to 8 - \$15

June 14-16 - Basketball - Grades K to 8 - \$15

June 21-23 - Art Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$ 30

June 28-30 - STEM Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$30

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! Don't wait --- Sign up today!! Limited spots remaining!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway. **Nine new students** have already enrolled. We would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well. Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a shadow day or visit our website at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com for registration information.

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am. Pastor Jason Kaspar, from Mt. Calvary, La Grange will be leading us this week!

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. If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!

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 Nikki Kueck to learn more.