

**September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**



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 sinful heart is filled with “bitter jealousy and selfish ambition” (James 3:14), which causes hostility, quarrels and conflicts, even among those who are fellow members of the Body of Christ. This should not be so! Rather, God “opposes the proud” with His Law, in order to humble them unto repentance; He “gives grace to the humble,” in order to exalt them by His Gospel of forgiveness (James 4:6–10). This true “wisdom from above” is found in the gentleness, mercy and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself and sacrificed Himself for the salvation of sinners (James 3:17). He was “like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter,” committing Himself to God, His Father, “who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind” (Jer. 11:19–20). Therefore, “after three days,” His Father exalted Him by raising Him from the dead (Mark 9:31). In Holy Baptism, He takes disciples of all ages into His arms like little children. In receiving Him through repentance and faith in His forgiveness of sins, they receive from His Father a share in the glory of His cross and resurrection (Mark 9:36–37).*

**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**

# Children of the Heavenly Father

LSB 725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

*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  $\text{†}$  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. 37:5–7; antiphon: Ps. 37:4*

Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.**

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
and your justice as the noonday.

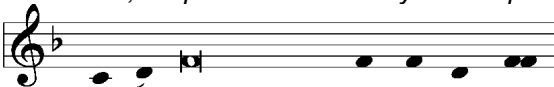
**Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries  
out evil devices!**

**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.**

Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**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.*)

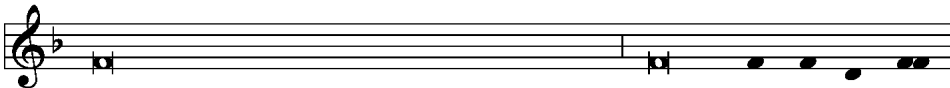
LSB 152



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



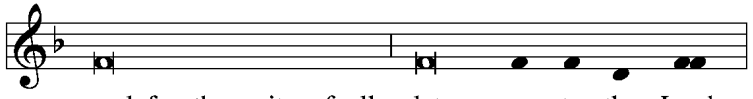
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



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



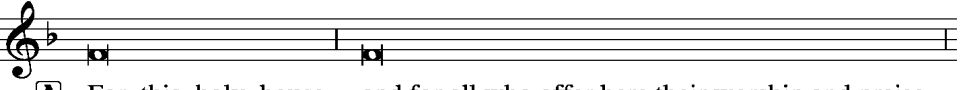
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



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



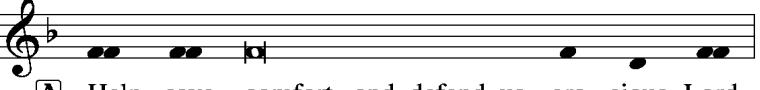
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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*

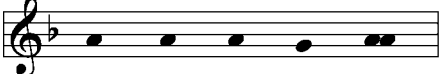


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.




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, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; 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

*Jeremiah 11:18–20*

**P** Today's Old Testament reading is from Jeremiah, the eleventh chapter.

<sup>18</sup>The LORD made it known to me and I knew;  
then you showed me their deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.

I did not know it was against me  
they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
that his name be remembered no more.”

<sup>20</sup>But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously,  
who tests the heart and the mind,  
let me see your vengeance upon them,  
for to you have I committed my cause.

**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. 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, you his saints,

**for those who fear him lack nothing!**

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

**but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

### Epistle

*James 3:13—4:10*

**P** Today's Epistle reading is from James, the third and fourth chapters.

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits,

impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

<sup>1</sup>What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? <sup>6</sup>But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

**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

*Mark 9:30-37*

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

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

<sup>30</sup>[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know,

<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

<sup>36</sup>And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”



**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 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.

*Sit*

# Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

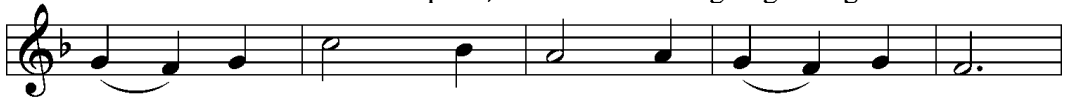
LSB 851



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our  
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious  
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



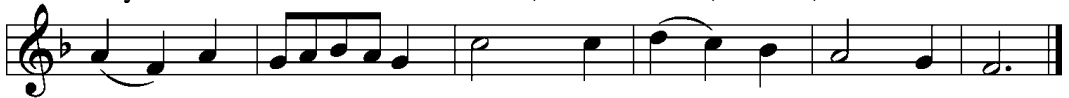
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."  
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You  
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful  
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your  
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"  
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

## Sermon "A Study in Contrast"

James 3:13-4:10

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

## Votum

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

*Stand*

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

## Create in Me

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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

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

*Close of the Prayers*

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

# Service of the Sacrament

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



**P** The Lord be with you.



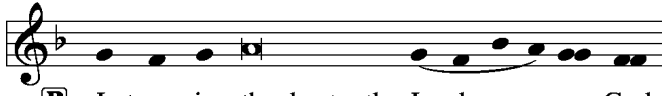
**C** And al - so with you.



**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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

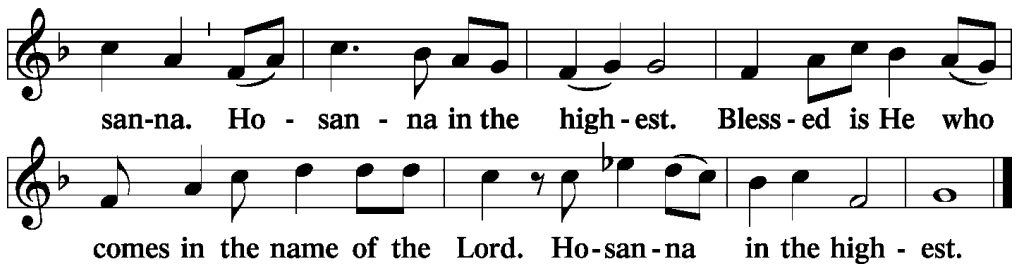
**Sanctus:** *(Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9).)* LSB 161



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



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



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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

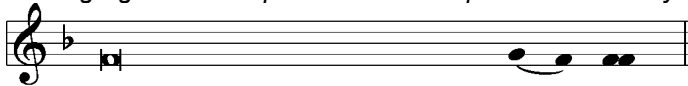
- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be Thy name,**  
**Thy kingdom come,**  
**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;**  
**give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**

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

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

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

**At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing**

LSB 633

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal

our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love

Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
 You have conquered in the fight,  
 You have brought us life and light.  
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
 Now no more the grave enthrall;  
 You have opened paradise,  
 And Your saints in You shall rise.  
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
 This alone can sin destroy;  
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
 Newborn souls in You to be.  
 Alleluia!

△8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
 Savior, by whose death we live,  
 Spirit, guide through all our days:  
 Three in One, Your name we praise.  
 Alleluia!

# The Lamb

LSB 547



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.  
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill  
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.  
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.  
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.  
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.  
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

*Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

*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.

*Stand*

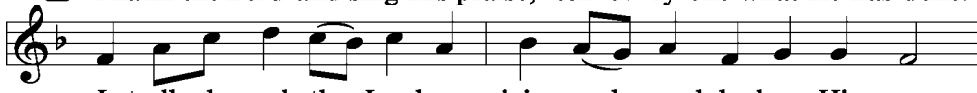
**Post-Communion Canticle:** *(Having received Christ in our mouths and into our lives in the Sacrament, we give thanks and go forth in peace.)*

## Thank the Lord

LSB 164



**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

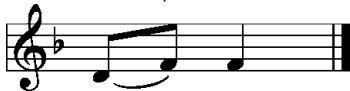


with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

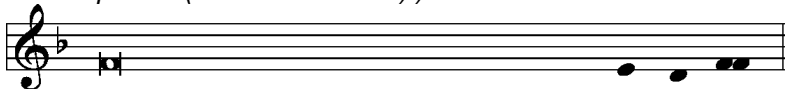
**P** Let us pray.

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.



**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

**Almighty Father, Bless the Word**

LSB 923



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your  
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward  
△ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious  
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!  
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.  
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



**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**

**Learning the Liturgy, Week 9**

*What do the pastor’s movements indicate?*

The gestures and postures of the pastor are normally not coincidence or accident; rather, they are usually meant to teach something about what is happening at that moment in the Divine Service. For example, the pastor remains outside the chancel (the area behind the altar rail) during the Preparation and moves into it during the Introit as a reminder that we only come into God’s presence because He has forgiven us first. When the pastor faces the congregation, this is a moment when God is speaking to us, His people; when the pastor faces the altar, this is a moment when we, God’s people, are speaking to Him. The pastor often raises his hands during prayer as a sign that we lift our petitions before the Lord and expect Him to fill our hands with His blessings. These are just a few examples of how you can watch the pastor’s movements and motions as one indicator of what is happening during the Divine Service.

**September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

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

<b>Elders:</b>	<b>Jack Page C. Johannessen</b>	<b>Organist(s):</b>	<b>June Parker Esther Wolff Kim Appel Ruth Eaton</b>
<b>Altar</b>	<b>Marilyn Burns</b>		
<b>Guild:</b>	<b>Mary Lou Oliver</b>		

**AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

<b><u>Sun. Sept. 19</u></b>	<b><u>Mon Sept. 20</u></b>	<b><u>Tue. Sept. 21</u></b>	<b><u>Wed. Sept. 22</u></b>
8:45am-Adult Bible Study 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	6pm-GLLC Mtg		5:30pm-Youth Confirmation
<b><u>Thurs. Sept. 23</u></b>	<b><u>Fri. Sept. 24</u></b>	<b><u>Sat. Sept. 25</u></b>	<b><u>Sun. Sept. 26</u></b>
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON		10am-Board of Ed Mtg	8:45am-Adult Bible Study 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School

### Ongoing Worship Services at Grace

At their August meeting, the Board of Elders elected to postpone further changes to our worship practices that we had hoped to implement. The Board of Elders continues to monitor pandemic conditions in the hopes that, in the coming months, we will resume communing at the altar rail and remove the barriers on every other pew. We will make such announcements in advance so that you can be prepared. When that time comes, based on your feedback, we know and respect that some may continue to desire greater precautions, we plan to set aside the space in the parish hall for those who desire greater social distancing, masks, and other preventative measures. In the meantime, please continue to show Christian care and concern for others here at Grace by remaining home and watching the service online when you are not feeling well and by remaining patient in your interactions with others. Above all else, please continue to pray for the Lord's mercy in the face of this pandemic, both physically and spiritually, that He would keep us in repentance and faith no matter what trials He allows us to undergo.

### Opportunities to Receive God's Gifts Individually

When you are not able to make it to the weekly Divine Service on a regular basis, please know that opportunities to receive the gifts of God at other times are available. I encourage you to be in touch with me to let me know how I can deliver these gifts of God to you, because no Christian should go without God's gifts in Word and Sacrament. When circumstances do not allow you to join the congregation for a time, I certainly encourage you to make use of the Facebook livestream to hear the Scriptures and the sermon; I also would welcome the opportunity to set an appointment with you to study God's Word with you and bring you the Body and Blood of Jesus on an individual basis. ***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! –Pastor Appel

### 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).

### Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM has resumed! (Please note that Family Sunday School will continue each week after worship.) We will be studying God's Word in the Psalms that He invites us to speak back to Him in prayer. Please join us!

### 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!

### **Online Resources**

Each week, our congregation live streams the 10:00 AM Sunday morning on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/](http://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).

### **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](http://kfuo.org):** Study Ezekiel 5-9 on *Sharper Iron* (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), hear about Mental Health with Deaconess Heidi Goehmann on *The Coffee Hour* (9/20 at 9:30 a.m. CT), study Leviticus 5-10 on *Thy Strong Word* (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and dig into our Lutheran Confessions on *Concord Matters* (9/25 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or the KFUE Radio app!

### **WENDISH FEST:**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wendish Fest will be hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Texas Wendish Heritage Society on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at Serbin, Texas. The day will offer lots of Wendish history, heritage, culture and family activities at the St. Paul Picnic Grounds. The traditional Wendish noon meal will be available at 10:30 for \$12 and children \$6. To-Go and drive-thru will also be available at 9:30 – all take-out meals are \$12. Make plans to attend this annual event. For more information contact 979-366-2441 or [wendish@bluebon.net](mailto:wendish@bluebon.net) or [www.texaswendish.org](http://www.texaswendish.org).

### **Board of Education Meeting**

We will be having our Board of Education meeting on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am. We will be meeting the last Saturday of every month.

**September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Epistle Reading: James 5: (1-12)13-20

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-50



### **National Merit Semi-Finalists Announced**

Benjamin Meyer, senior at Faith Lutheran High School, was named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship program. Benjamin is the son of Rev. Jonathan and Ruth Meyer of Lexington. He will study pre-medicine and orthopedic surgery. Benjamin will complete the application process to become a finalist for the opportunity to earn a share of almost \$30 million in scholarship awarded over the next few months. The National Merit Scholarship Program is highly selective and receiving recognition in this program is an impressive accomplishment. Congratulations Benjamin!!

### **Camp Lone Star Retreat**

FLHS students had a wonderful time at Camp Lone Star this past week. It was a great two days of challenge courses, Bible Study and learning about building up the body of Christ. We are thankful for this opportunity to grow together as a Falcon family!

### **Oktoberfest**

FLHS will be hosting a family friendly event on Saturday, October 23rd at the Holy Cross Picnic grounds. More details about the day are to be announced soon, but we will have a German meal, concession stand, dominos, washers and corn hole tournaments, and games for kids.

### **Thrivent Action Team Grants**

If you are a Thrivent member willing to submit an application for a \$250 grant to be used on projects at Faith, please contact Nikki Kueck by calling (979) 242-2889. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school. \*We are beginning to gather grants for our Oktoberfest event on October 23rd.

### **Free Wednesday mornings?**

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am. Pastor Jonathan Meyer will be leading us this week!

### **Follow Us On Facebook!**

With a new school year underway, you may want to see the exciting things happening inside here on a daily basis! By “liking” our Facebook page and “sharing” our posts, you will be in the loop on all the great things happening and