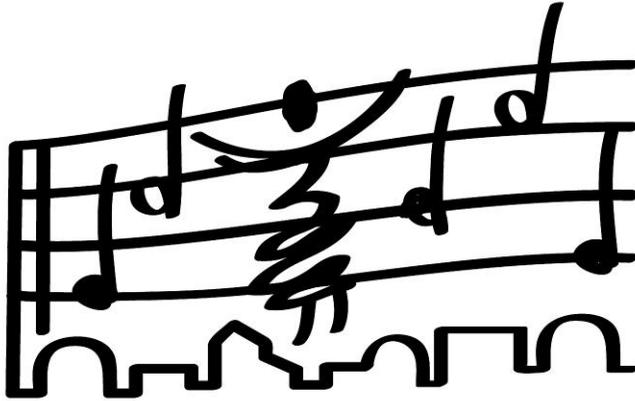


***December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Third Sunday in Advent***



*Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult  
with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

+ ZEPHANIAH 3:14 +

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 Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been called by the Latin word Gaudete, meaning “Rejoice!” For as you are called to repentance, so also are you urged to rejoice in the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. By His own cross, He has accomplished salvation for you; “he has cleared away your enemies,” “taken away the judgments against you” and come to reign in your midst. Indeed, He rejoices over you with gladness and song (Zeph. 3:15–17)! Therefore, even from prison St. Paul encourages us to “rejoice in the Lord always,” knowing that the peace of God will guard and keep us in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4, 7). We find an example and encouragement in the case of John the Baptist. As he languishes in prison, he calls upon Jesus and is strengthened by the Word of the Gospel that he receives. The same good news is preached to you, by which all things are made new and even “the dead are raised up” (Luke 7:22). Do not be offended by the cross, therefore, but let your life be one of prayer and thanksgiving (Luke 7:23; Phil. 4:6)*

**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**

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

*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.

**G** 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** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**G** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**G** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**G** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

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

☐ Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☑ **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

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

*Ps. 146:5–8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.

**Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;

**who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

**Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.**

## Gloria Patri



☑ **Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;**



**as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.**

**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 186



☑ **Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -**



**on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.**

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



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**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.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

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

### Old Testament Reading

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

**P** Today's Old Testament reading is from Zephaniah, the third chapter

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes," says the LORD.

**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.*)

*Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

Behold, your king is coming to you;

**righteous and having salvation.**

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

## Epistle

*Philippians 4:4-7*

**P** Today's Epistle reading is from Philippians, the fourth chapter.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia

*LSB 190*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 7:18-28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist

has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?"

<sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

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



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**Creed:** *(God works faith in us by His Word that we hear in Scripture. We confess that faith using one of three creeds that the church has used throughout the years and across the world.)*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.

# Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

## Sermon "John's Question and Ours"

Luke 7:18-28

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

### Votum

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

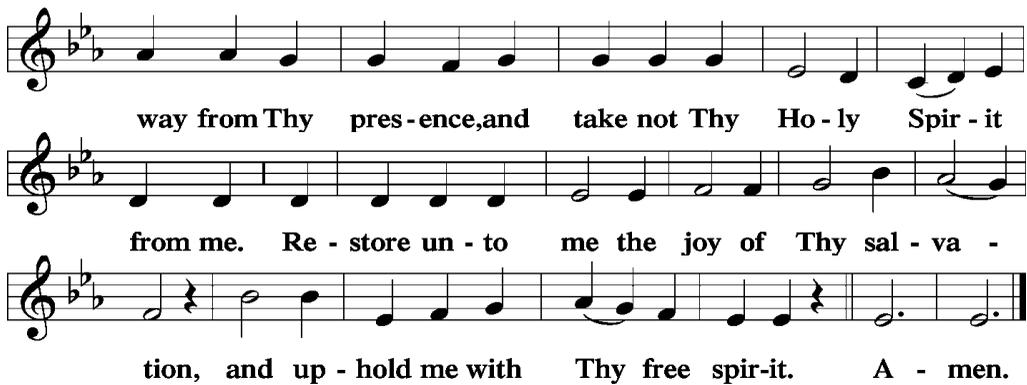
Stand

Offertory: (The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.) LSB 192



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 with thy spir-it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up un-to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks un-to the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

- P** It is truly meet, 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus:** (Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Is. 6:3; Mt. 21:9).) LSB 195



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer:** (We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray.)

- 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.

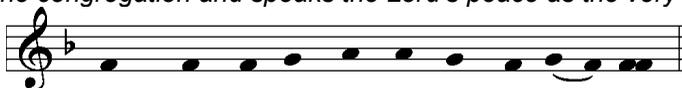
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**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 197



**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 198



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



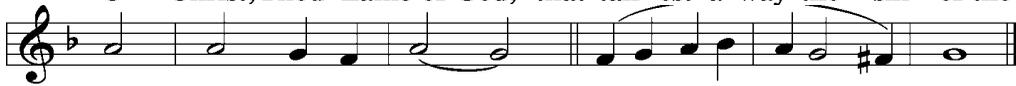
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution  
In Thee Is Gladness

LSB 818

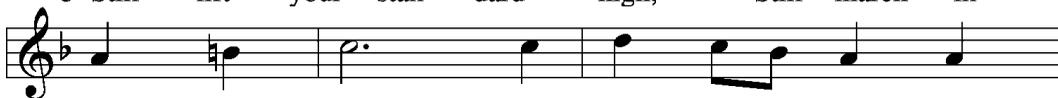
1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,  
2 Since He is ours, \_\_\_\_\_ We fear no pow - ers, Not of  
sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of  
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -  
heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou  
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the  
wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -  
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -  
cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are  
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for  
pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing  
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him  
To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!  
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

# Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

LSB 813



1 Re - joi - ce, O pil - grim throng! Re - joi - ce, give  
 2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's  
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the  
 4 Yet on and on - ward still, With hymn and  
 5 Still lift your stan - dard high, Still march in



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner  
 surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy  
 saints on earth, Pour out the strains of  
 chant and song, Through gate and porch and  
 firm ar - ray, As pil - grims through the



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.  
 hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.  
 joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.  
 col - umned aisle The hal - lowed path - ways throng.  
 dark - ness wend Till dawns the gold - en day.



Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!

- 6 At last the march shall end;  
 The wearied ones shall rest;  
 The pilgrims find their home at last,  
 Jerusalem the blest. Refrain
- △ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high,  
 The Lord whom we adore:  
 The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
 One God forevermore. Refrain

Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

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

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

**Nunc Dimittis**

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

**Thanksgiving**

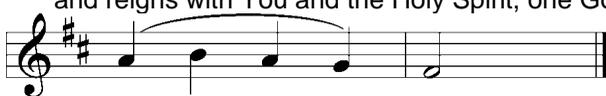
LSB 200

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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

**P** Let us pray.

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



**C** A - men.

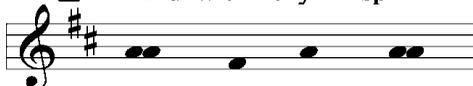
### Benedicamus



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



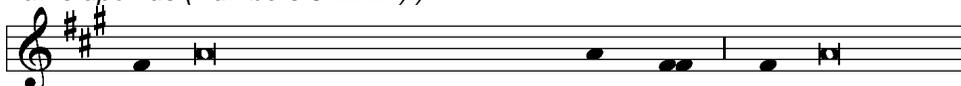
**A** Bless we the Lord.



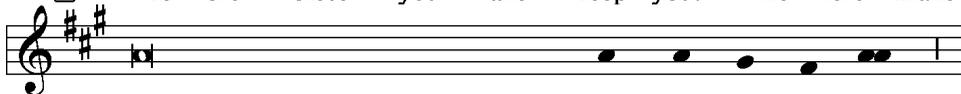
**C** Thanks be to God.

**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).)*

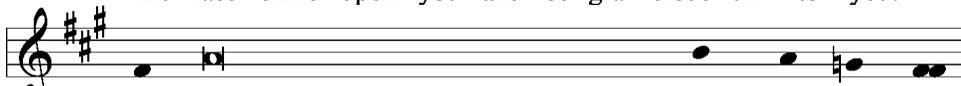
LSB 202



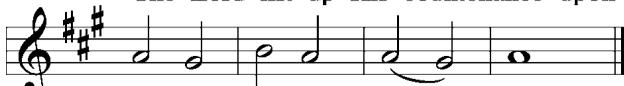
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

# Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

## 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 21

*What is the structure of the Apostles' and Nicene Creed?*

Both the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are structured in a trinitarian format. Each creed has three articles. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Article, we confess God the Father as the Almighty Maker of all things, the One who has given us life and still sustains us. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article, we confess God the Son as the Savior who has taken on our humanity to live, die, rise, and ascend for our salvation and who will return to take us to our eternal home. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Article, we confess God the Holy Spirit as the One who makes us holy by giving us faith in Christ, making us members of the Christian Church, and keeping us in the saving faith until the resurrection and life everlasting.

December 12<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**

**Elders:** Kerry Becker Organist(s): June Parker  
Colby Zimmerhanzel Esther Wolff  
Kim Appel  
**Altar:** June Parker  
**Guild:** Ruth Eaton  
Lily Caldwell

**AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

<b><u>Sun. Dec. 12</u></b>	<b><u>Mon Dec. 13</u></b>	<b><u>Tue. Dec. 14</u></b>	<b><u>Wed. Dec. 15</u></b>
8:45am-Adult Bible Study 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School		9am-Pastor Circuit Mtg	10am- GLLC Chapel 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation 7pm- Advent Service 8pm-Voters Meeting
<b><u>Thurs. Dec. 16</u></b>	<b><u>Fri. Dec. 17</u></b>	<b><u>Sat. Dec.18</u></b>	<b><u>Sun. Dec. 19</u></b>
			8:45am-Adult Bible Study 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School

Attendance

Sunday Worship (12/5) 106 Midweek (12/8) 38

**Ongoing Worship Services at Grace**

At their October meeting, the Board of Elders set Sunday, November 7, as the date to resume communing at the altar rail, as well as to discontinue use of barriers on every other pew. The ushers will be conscientious to allow for a bit extra room between communicants than previously, and the parish hall will continue to be reserved for those who desire greater precautions. If you choose to sit in the parish hall, please make sure to allow for greater distances between households and wear a mask. If you have any concerns or needs for care, please speak to Pastor Appel or to your elder so that we can make arrangements as necessary. As we make this transition, please continue in the same spirit of Christian care and concern that you have already been showing to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

**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

### 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!

### 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).

### 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. **CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org:** Hear "Advent with the Apostles" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), hear Advent midweek worship from Village Lutheran Ladue at 12:00 p.m. CT on 12/15, and continue studying the Gospel of Matthew on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Hear sacred music for Advent and Christmas through January 6 and find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or on the KFUE Radio app.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Midweek of Advent 3**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7  
New Testament Reading: Luke 2:8-14

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

**Third Sunday in Advent**

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2-5a  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10  
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)



### **“Faith at Christmas” Program**

The students gave a marvelous performance at Faith at Christmas this past week as we celebrated the birth of our Savior. We were incredibly blessed to give this performance to those in attendance and those viewing from at home. The video of the program can still be found on our Facebook page if you were unable to watch it on Tuesday.

### **End of Year Giving**

In Proverbs 2:6, God’s Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ’s wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

### **Raffle Items**

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

### **Thank you!**

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!

### **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.

