

***December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021***  
***First Sunday after Christmas***



**Colossians 3:12**

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:** *When the Lord destroyed the firstborn sons of Egypt, He spared the sons of Israel by providing a lamb in their stead. Hence, all the firstborn sons belong to Him. Every firstborn male animal was sacrificed, and every firstborn son of man was redeemed (Ex. 13:12–13). Therefore, the parents of Jesus “brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord” (Luke 2:22). However, He is not redeemed from priestly service but is consecrated for “the redemption of Jerusalem” and “the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25, 38). For God the Father did not spare His only begotten Son, but offered Him up as the true Passover Lamb, in order to redeem His people from bondage. His cross has caused many to stumble and fall, but His blood atoned for the sins of the world and delivers us from death. We now depart in the peace of Christ because we are also raised with Him. As we receive His body and blood, we join Simeon and Anna in “giving thanks to God the Father through him,” “singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,” including the Nunc Dimittis, with thankfulness in our hearts (Luke 2:28–32, 38; Col. 3:15–17).*

**Holy Communion** is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus’ own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matthew 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26). For this reason, and because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-34), we ask that those who have not yet been instructed and those who are not members of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

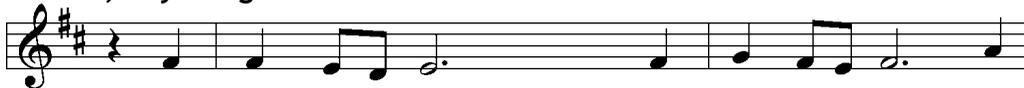
### **A Prayer Before Worship**

*O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen*

**PRELUDE  
CALL TO WORSHIP BELL  
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES  
WELCOME**

# O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is

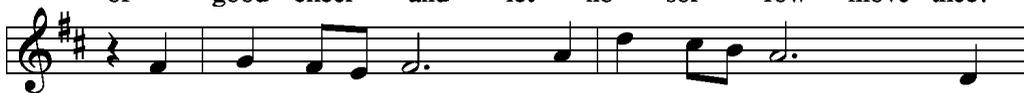
LSB 372



1 O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is My  
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey Doth  
 3 Thy light and grace Our guilt ef - face, Thy  
 4 Thou Chris - tian heart, Who - e'er thou art, Be



par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.  
 come to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.  
 heav'n - ly rich - es all our loss re - triev - ing.  
 of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee!



For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made  
 Thou, God's own Son, With us art one, Dost  
 Im - man - u - el, Thy birth doth quell The  
 For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild, Joins



flesh for us; here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.  
 join us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.  
 pow'r of hell and Sa - tan's bold de - ceiv - ing.  
 thee to Him; how great - ly God must love thee!

5 Remember thou  
 What glory now  
 The Lord prepared thee for all earthly  
 sadness.  
 The angel host  
 Can never boast  
 Of greater glory, greater bliss or  
 gladness.

6 The world may hold  
 Her wealth and gold;  
 But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy  
 true treasure.  
 To Him hold fast  
 Until at last  
 A crown be thine and honor in full  
 measure.

*Stand*

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

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

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

**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,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**  
**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **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,  
**C** **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.)*

- P** 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.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

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

*Ps. 98:1-4; antiphon: Is. 52:10*

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
 and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
 His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;  
 he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
 break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
 and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

## Gloria Patri



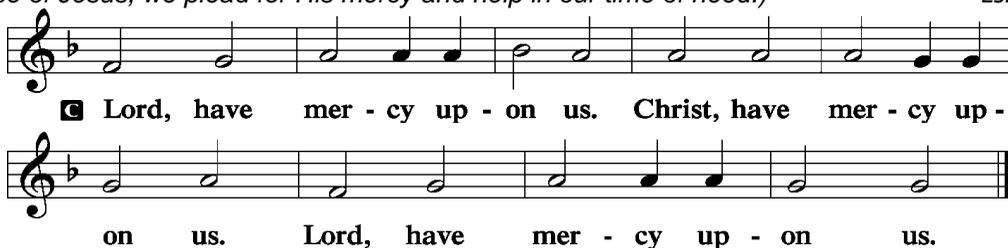
**C** **Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;**



**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.

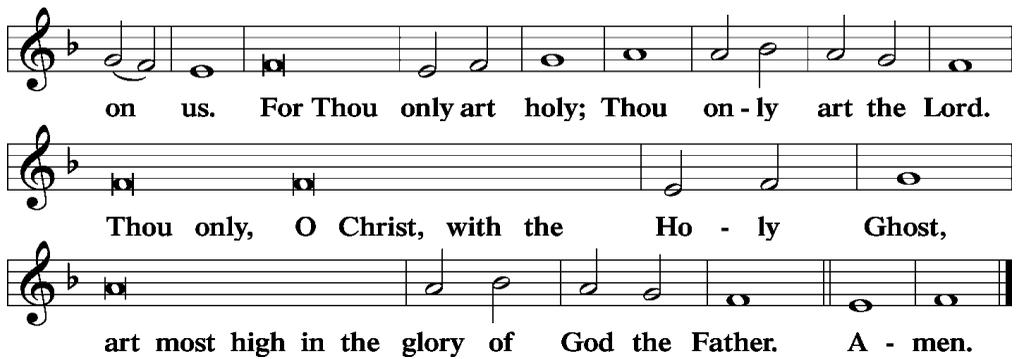
**Hymn of Praise:** (Trusting God's promise of mercy, we join the church in heaven and on earth in a song of praise to our Creator, Savior, and Comforter.)

**Gloria in Excelsis**

LSB 187



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



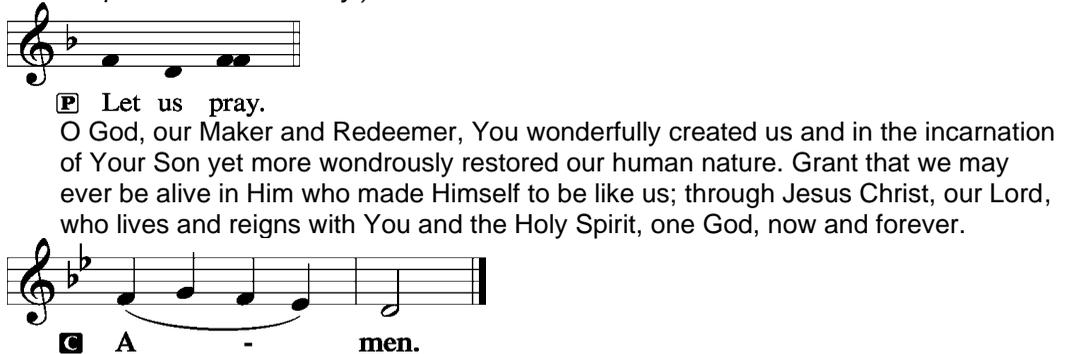
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.  
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

**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.  
 O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** A - men.

*Sit*

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

**Old Testament Reading**

*Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15*

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

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>"Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."  
<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place...."  
<sup>11</sup>"When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. <sup>13</sup>Every

firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

<sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'"

**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.*)

*Is. 9:6; Ps. 98:1a*

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**and the government shall be upon his shoulder.**

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Sing to the Lord a new song,

**for he has done marvelous things!**

## Epistle

*Colossians 3:12–17*

**P** Today's Epistle reading is from Colossians, the third chapter.

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**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 2:22–40*

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



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

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord  
<sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation  
<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**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  $\text{✠}$  everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

## Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

## Sermon "How to Die a Blessed Death"

Luke 2:22-40

(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.) LSB 192



**G** 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.  
**G** 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



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.

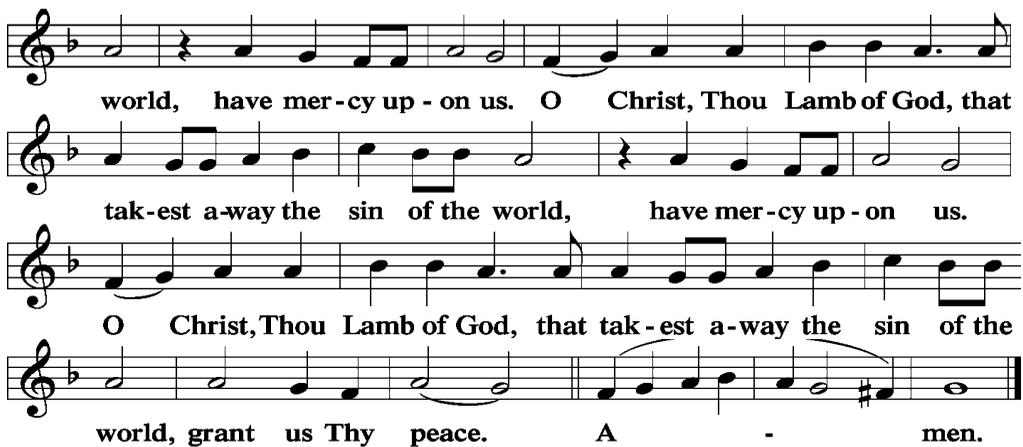


**C** A - men.

**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**

**Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

LSB 386



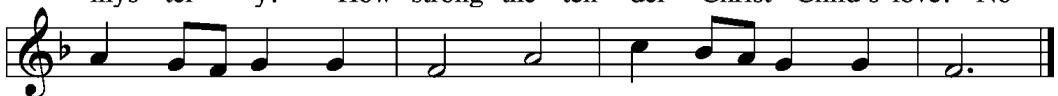
1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.  
 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?  
 He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man-ger lies;  
 Cheer my wea-ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
 Death was reign-ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty  
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,  
 Not so bright-ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.  
 Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!  
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!  
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -  
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our  
 5 He is a ser - vant, I a lord: How great a



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The  
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His  
 mys - ter - y! How strong the ten - der Christ Child's love! No



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.  
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.  
 tru - er friend than He, No tru - er friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door     Δ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
 To blessèd paradise;     Lord Jesus, we adore  
 The angel bars the way no more.     And praise to God the Father yield  
 To God our praises rise,     And Spirit evermore;  
 To God our praises rise.     We praise You evermore.

Stand

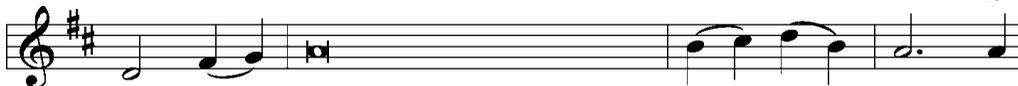
In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

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

**G** Amen.

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

Nunc Dimittis



**G** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



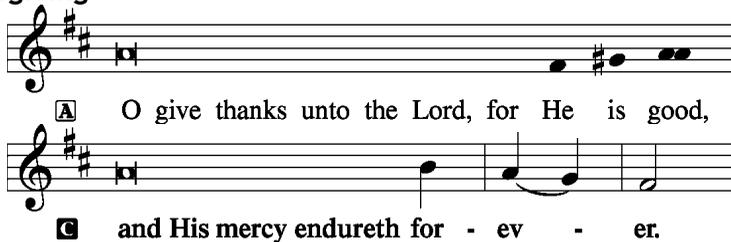
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



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



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** 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.

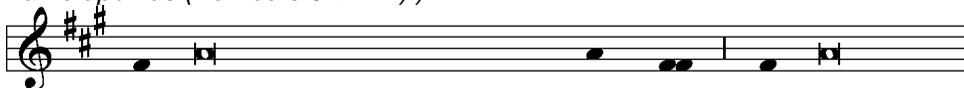


**A** Bless we the Lord.

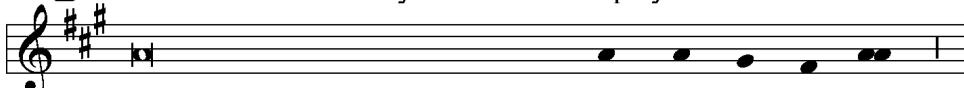


**C** Thanks be to God.

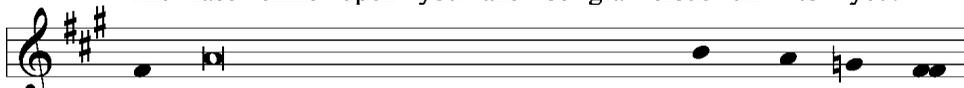
**Benediction:** *(Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).)* LSB 202



**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.

*Sit*

## God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392



1	God	loves	me	dear	-	ly,	Grants	me	sal -
2	I	was	in	slav	-	'ry,	Sin,	death,	and
3	He	sent	forth	Je	-	sus,	My	dear	Re -
4	Je -	sus,	my	Sav	-	ior,	Him -	self	did
5	Now	I	will	praise		You,	O	Love	E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



*Refrain*  
 There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

**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 23**

*What is the sermon?*

The sermon is the proclamation of God's Word into our lives as Christians today. The sermon helps us to know both what God's Word says and what it means. Based on the one or more of the texts of Holy Scripture appointed for the day, the pastor proclaims God's Word of judgment and salvation. Through God's Word of Law and Gospel, the sermon aims to show us our sin so that we would repent and show us our Savior so that we would believe in Him for eternal life.

December 26<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:** Libby Caldwell Ruth Eaton

**AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

<u>Sun. Dec. 26</u>	<u>Mon Dec. 27</u>	<u>Tue. Dec. 28</u>	<u>Wed. Dec. 29</u>
8:45am-Adult Bible Study 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School			10am- GLLC Chapel
<u>Thurs. Dec. 30</u>	<u>Fri. Dec. 31</u>	<u>Sat. Jan 1</u>	<u>Sun. Jan. 2</u>
			8:45am-Adult Bible Study 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School

Attendance

Sunday Worship (12/19) 92 Midweek (12/22) 42

**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 10:00AM 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!

### 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!

### 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, KFUO, where Pastor Appel hosts the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, every weekday morning at 8 AM. **CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org:** We celebrate the season of Christmas by taking a hiatus from our regular programming to bring you special Twelve Days of Christmas programming, including Scripture readings, sacred music for the season, and special greetings from our missionaries and military chaplains serving around the globe. Enjoy this programming through Epiphany, January 6! Regular programming returns January 7.

### The NEW Epiphany Lutheran Church of Bastrop

The formation of an LCMS congregation in Bastrop has begun! If you are interested in being part of this exciting new venture, come join us as we gather to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. We will gather in the home of Paul and Barbara Hofman, 711 Bluffview Dr, Bastrop, TX on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. From 6:00-7:00pm will be fellowship and refreshments, a prayer service at 7:00pm, and more fellowship time following the service. If you have a friend or relative in the Bastrop area who may benefit from this information, please share! Please RSVP to Barbara Hofmann at (830)377-2308 or barbpaul83@gmail.com

**January 2, 2022**

**Second Sunday after Christmas**

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:40-52



### **Merry Christmas!!**

Faith Lutheran High School wishes you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We pray God would shower blessings upon you this holiday season and in the year ahead! Thank you for being a blessing to FLHS!

### **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.

### **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.