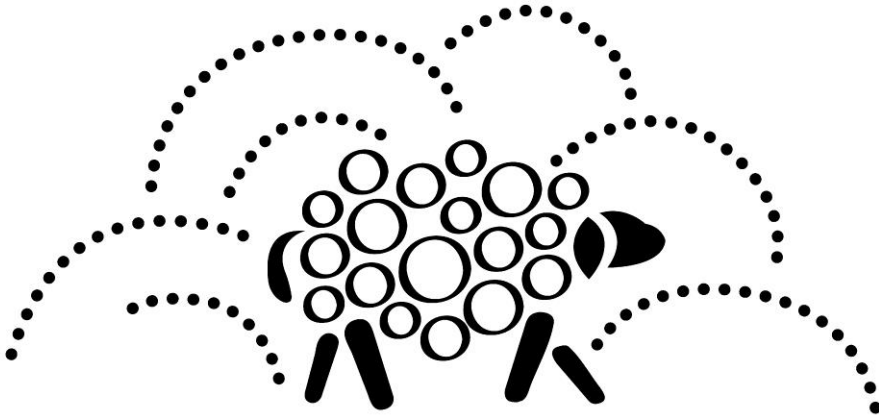


*March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022*  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*



***This your brother was dead  
and is alive; he was lost  
and is found. + LUKE 15:32 +***

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:** *God the Father has opened His heart to us in love. While we were “still a long way off,” He saw us and “felt compassion” (Luke 15:20). Therefore, He gave His only begotten Son for us, making “him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). By the ministry of reconciliation, He runs to us, embraces us in mercy and clothes us with His glory as beloved sons in Christ Jesus. And so we give thanks unto the Lord our God, who has taken away our sins and turned His anger from us (Is. 12:1). Because He has become our salvation, our strength and our song, we “will trust, and will not be afraid” (Is. 12:2).*

**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**

# Today Your Mercy Calls Us

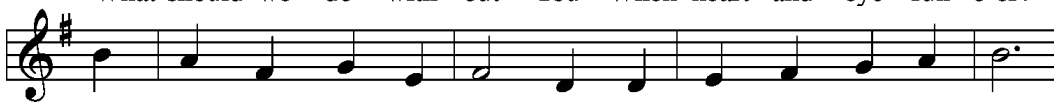
LSB 915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.  
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;  
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

*Stand*

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

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

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

**C** Amen.

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

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

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

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

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

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

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

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

*Ps. 51:2–6; antiphon: Ps. 51:1*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!**

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

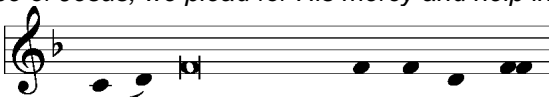
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Kyrie:** *(Shortened form of the Greek “Kyrie eleison,” meaning “Lord, have mercy.” In the presence of Jesus, we plead for His mercy and help in our time of need.)*

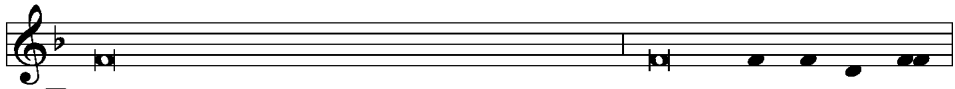
LSB 152



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



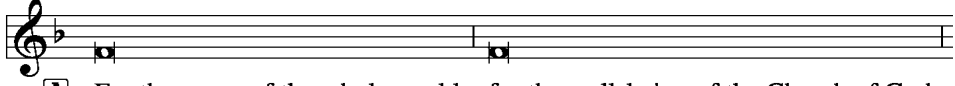
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



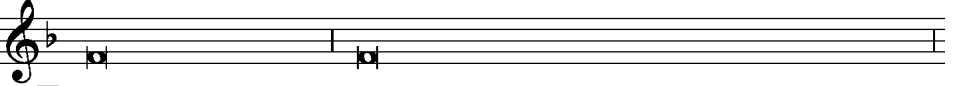
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



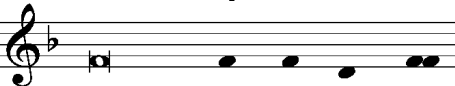
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



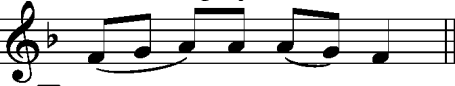
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



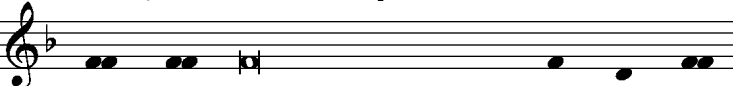
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



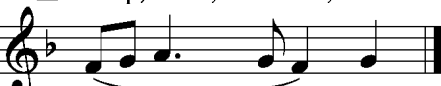
let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



**C** A - men.

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



**P** The Lord be with you.

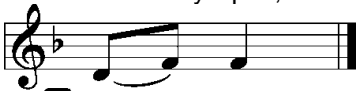


**C** And al - so with you.

**Collect:** *(Many of these prayers have been used in the church for over 1,500 years. They “collect” the Gospel theme for the day.)*

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

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

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 12:1–6*

**P** Today's Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the twelfth chapter

<sup>1</sup>You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned away,  
that you might comfort me.

<sup>2</sup>“Behold, God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid;  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.”

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,  
call upon his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;

let this be made known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:** *(The Gradual is a portion of a psalm or other Scripture passage that responds to the Old Testament reading and transitions us toward the words of Jesus in the Gospel.)*

*Heb. 12:2*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

**the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

**and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

**P** Today's Epistle reading is from 2 Corinthians the fifth chapter.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

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



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

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus].

<sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable:...

<sup>11</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these

things meant. <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

**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 God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*



**Hymn of the Day:** *(This hymn especially relates to the Gospel theme for the day. Each hymn provides a way for us to hear God's Word set to music.)*

**God Loved the World So That He Gave**

LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made  
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in  
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the  
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessèd Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

**Sermon "The Mercy of Our Father"**

Luke 15:11-32

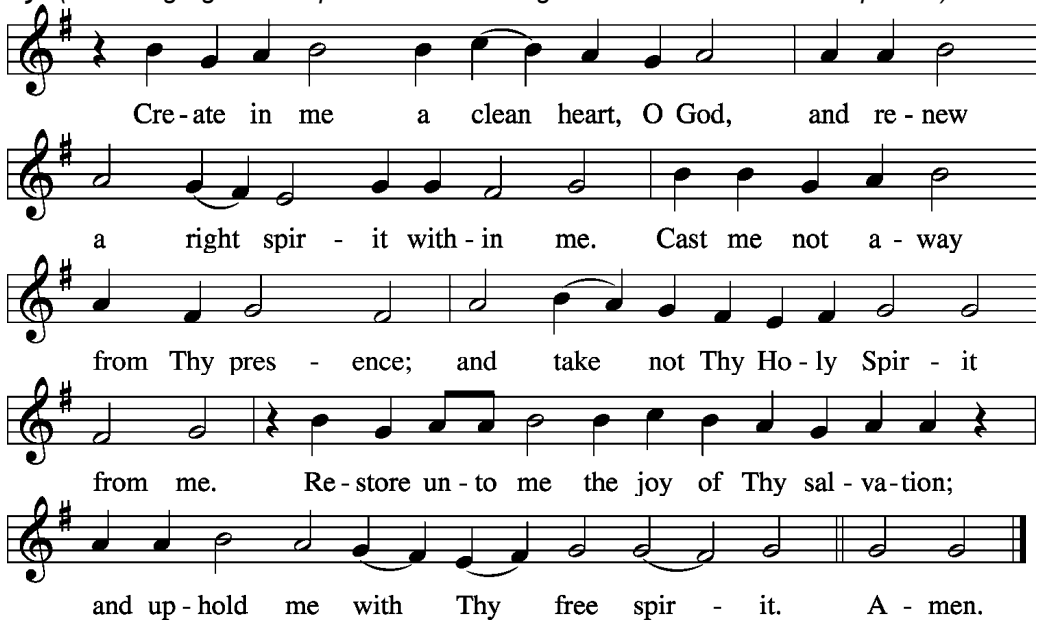
*(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)*

**Votum**

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

Stand

**Offertory:** (*The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.*) LSB 956



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

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

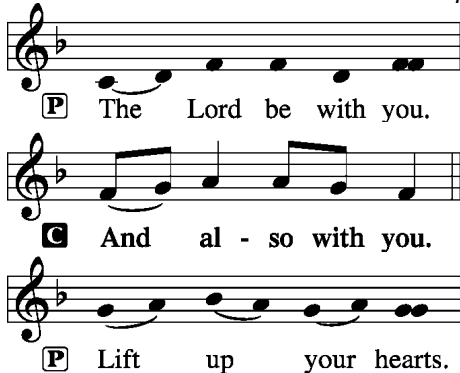
- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

*Close of the Prayers*

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

## Service of the Sacrament

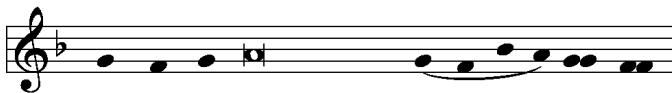
**Preface:** (*The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.*) LSB 194



**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



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



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

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



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



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



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



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

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

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

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.

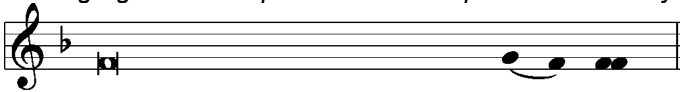
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Words of Our Lord:** *(We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.)* LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

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



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei:** *(Latin for "Lamb of God." As John the Baptist cried (John 1:29), so we sing to Christ, our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.)* LSB 163



# Distribution

## If Your Beloved Son, O God

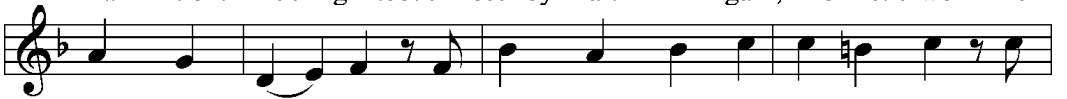
LSB 568



1 If Your be - lov - ed Son, O God, Had not to earth de -  
2 But now I find sweet peace and rest; De - spair no more reigns  
3 I trust in Him with all my heart; Now all my sor - row  
4 All righ-teous-ness by works is vain; The Law brings con - dem -



scend - ed And in our mor - tal flesh and blood Had not sin's  
o'er me. No more am I by sin op - pressed, For Christ has  
ceas - es. His words a - bid - ing peace im - part; His blood from  
na - tion. True righ-teous-ness by faith I gain; Christ's work is



pow - er end - ed, Then this poor, wretch - ed soul of mine In  
borne sin for me. Up - on the cross for me He died That,  
guilt re - leas - es. Free grace through Him I now ob - tain; He  
my sal - va - tion. His death, that per - fect sac - ri - fice, Has



hell e - ter - nal - ly would pine Be - cause of my trans-gres - sion.  
rec - on-ciled, I might a - bide With You, my God, for - ev - er.  
wash-es me from ev - 'ry stain, And pure I stand be - fore Him.  
paid the all - suf - fi - cient price; In Him my hope is an - chored.

- 5 My guilt, O Father, You have laid  
On Christ, Your Son, my Savior.  
Lord Jesus, You my debt have paid  
And gained for me God's favor.  
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace,  
The good in me to You I trace;  
In faith and hope preserve me.

# What Wondrous Love Is This

LSB 543



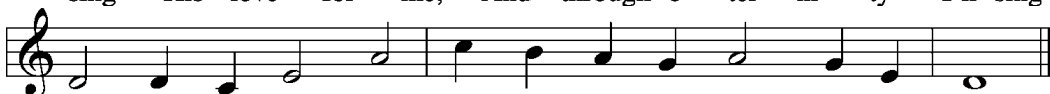
1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That  
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be-  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my  
 is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will  
 sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

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

**P** Let us pray.

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



**G** A - - men.



**Learning the Liturgy, Week 36**

*What is the Post-Communion Collect?*

After receiving the Lord's Body and Blood in Holy Communion, we return to Him in prayer. First, we give Him thanks for delivering what He has promised; through the Body and Blood He has fed us, He truly has forgiven our sins. Second, we ask that He would cause this gift to bear fruit in our lives; by His Sacrament, He makes our faith in Him stronger, causes our love for others to grow, and sustains us for our pilgrimage through this life and into the life of the world to come.

**March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**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>Davey Kadlecek Jack Page</b>	<b>Organist(s):</b>	<b>June Parker Esther Wolff Kim Appel Ruth Eaton</b>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	<b>Becky Watson Tammy Campion</b>		

**AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

<b><u>Sun. Mar. 27</u></b>	<b><u>Mon Mar. 28</u></b>	<b><u>Tue. Mar. 29</u></b>	<b><u>Wed. Mar. 30</u></b>
8:45am-Adult Bible Study 10am- Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	8am- Braille 6pm-GLLC 7pm- Evangelism		10am- GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation 6pm-Soup Supper 7pm-Lenten Service
<b><u>Thurs. Mar. 31</u></b>	<b><u>Fri. Apr. 1</u></b>	<b><u>Sat. Apr. 2</u></b>	<b><u>Sun. Apr. 3</u></b>
			8:45am-Adult Bible Study 10am- Worship/Communion Voter's Meeting after service

Attendance

Sunday Worship (03/20) 100    Lent Midweek (03/23) 57



### 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!

### 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:** Study Repentance in the Augsburg Confession Article XIII on Concord Matters (4/2 at 10:00 a.m. CT), study Luke 19-20 on Sharper Iron's "The Beloved Physician's Orderly Account" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), hear Lenten Midweek Recital and Worship Service 3/30 at 11:00 a.m. CT, and study Psalm 129-131 and Psalm 19-20 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfu.org](http://kfu.org) or on the KFUO Radio app.



LWML is 80 this year. 1942-2022 - 80 years of God's Grace. In thanksgiving for 80 years Grace LWML has a special mission project - 80 plus cans of food for the Smithville Food Pantry. Please see the box in the narthex for your contribution to reflect God's love by blessing others.



### **Voters Meeting**

The regular quarterly voters meeting will take place on April 3<sup>rd</sup> after service.



### **Lent Midweek Worship 2022**

Lent is the forty-day season of repentance leading up to Holy Week that prepares our hearts to receive in faith the gift of what Jesus has done in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Traditionally, Lenten devotion includes a focus on prayer, fasting, and giving, as well as extra opportunities to gather and hear God's Word as a congregation. Each Wednesday during Lent, we will gather at 7 PM to hear God's Word and give thanks for what Jesus has done in His death and resurrection. These begin on Ash Wednesday, March 2, in a Divine Service that includes both the Imposition of Ashes and the Sacrament of the Altar. For the next five Wednesdays (March 30; April 6), we'll use the order of Compline as an opportunity to meditate upon a portion of the Passion account from St. Luke. Please make these services a part of your Lenten devotion this year.

### **Lent Soup Suppers 2022**

Prior to the Lent midweek services on March 30, and April 6, we will have congregational soup suppers beginning at 6 PM. Individuals and families are needed to provide pots of soup each week. Please sign up in the narthex to indicate your willingness to provide soup for one or more of these dates. Consider joining us in this opportunity for our congregation to get to know each other better and grow in the love of Christ toward each other!

### **Easter Breakfast**

The Board of Elders is once again hosting our Easter breakfast this year. Various items are needed from the congregation to make it a success. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to indicate what you are able to bring, and deliver it to the church kitchen sometime during the week before Easter, April 17. All members of the congregation are also encouraged to bring pastries, fruit, and other continental breakfast items to supplement the meal. Please plan to join us for this wonderful celebration!



The Board of Education is once again preparing the the annual East Egg Hunt and is accepting donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy. Please Not Chocolate. Cash donations to help with the cost of the eggs and candy are also being accepted. If you have any questions please contact a Board of Ed member.



Vacation Bible School is coming back this summer to Grace Lutheran Church, June 19-23, 2022, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!** Please let me know where you would like to “Serve the Lord with Gladness”.

Reach out to me at [mpietsch@yahoo.com](mailto:mpietsch@yahoo.com) or call or text me at (512) 304-5866. Your help is greatly appreciated!

**March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Lent Midweek #4**

Psalm 88  
Passion Reading: Luke 23:1-25

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21  
Epistle Reading: Philippians 3: (4b-7) 8-14  
Gospel Reading: Luke 20:9-20



### **State Archery Competition**

Six FLHS students participated in the NASP state archery competition this week in Belton TX. They each did very well. Final results will be announced next week! Good job archers!

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

As a Thrivent member, you may have Choice Dollars that allow you to designate where the funds go, and by sending them to Faith, you can help us continue in our mission of Instilling Wisdom Today for Faithful Leaders Tomorrow! The deadline to designate your choice dollars from 2021 is **March 31, 2022**

### **Staff Positions Available**

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2022-2023 academic year! Interested individuals who teach any subject area are encouraged to apply, but science, social studies, English, or electives are sought after skills. Applicants may submit resumes to Faith Lutheran High School, PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960, call (979) 242-2889, or email them to [kueckn@flhstx.org](mailto:kueckn@flhstx.org). If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!

### **Free Wednesday mornings?**

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

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

Faith Lutheran High School will be hosting its Annual Good Friday Bake Sale on April 15th at the Classic Bank parking lot in Giddings! Cookies, pies, cakes, kolaches, cinnamon rolls, homemade noodles, homemade bread, and more will be available from 8 AM till noon, or until we sell out.

**\*BAKERS ARE NEEDED!** We need your help to make this event a success! Donations of any type of baked goods or homemade treats are welcome!

**\*DROP OFF LOCATIONS!** You may drop off donations on Wednesday and Thursday, April 13th and 14th, at Faith Lutheran High School, at Medack and Oltmann in Giddings, at Schiavone and Bamsch in La Grange, or you can contact us at (979) 242-2889 to make other arrangements.

Thanks for your continued support of Faith Lutheran High School!

### **New Student Registration**

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is underway. We would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well. Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a shadow day or visit our website at [www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org) for registration information.