

February 23rd, 2025
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI—SYNOD
308 Byrne Street
Smithville, TX 78957
512-237-2108
Divine Service 10 AM

Pastor David Woelmer

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: *Your inheritance as a child of Adam is sin and death, but in Christ you are made alive through His resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:21–22). As you have died with Him in Holy Baptism, so are you raised with Him to newness of life. Therefore, “do not go on sinning” (1 Cor. 15:34). Instead of serving your desires and harming your neighbors, live as “sons of the Most High,” and “be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:35–36). Deal with others as you would have others deal with you (Luke 6:31, 37–38). As Christ loved you when you were at enmity with Him, as He blessed and prayed for those who abused Him, and as He did good to those who hated Him and hurt Him, so also “love your enemies, do good” (Luke 6:27–29, 35). For God sent His Son to bear the cross and suffer death, not to condemn the guilty, but “to preserve life.” So does He provide a place for you within His Church, where He is near and deals kindly with “you and your children and your children’s children” (Gen. 45:5–10).*

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

Exchange of Peace

By the second century, it was common for Christians to follow St. Paul’s encouragement to “greet one another with a holy kiss” (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12) during the Church’s worship. Though the place in the worship service and the manner of this greeting have changed throughout the Church’s history, it has always served as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:2-3). It’s more than a simple “holy howdy” or a warm greeting to one another. Instead, it’s an extension of the reconciliation and forgiveness that Jesus has accomplished for us. We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you.”

Please stand and remain standing



1 From God the Fa - ther, vir - gin - born To us the
 2 Be - gin - ning from His home on high, In hu - man
 3 Glide on, O glo - rious Sun, and bring The gift of
 4 A - bide with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of



on - ly Son came down; By death the font to con - se -
 flesh He came to die; Cre - a - tion by His death re -
 heal - ing on Your wing; To ev - 'ry dull and cloud - ed
 dark - ness chase a - way; Your work of heal - ing, Lord, be -



crate, The faith - ful to re - gen - er - ate.
 stored, And shed new joys of life a - broad.
 sense The clear - ness of Your light dis - pense.
 gin, And take a - way the stain of sin.

- 5 Lord, once You came to earth's domain △ 6 To You, O Lord, all glory be
 And, we believe, shall come again; For this Your blest epiphany;
 Be with us on the battlefield, To God, whom all His hosts adore,
 From ev'ry harm Your people shield. And Holy Spirit evermore.

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

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

P 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.*)

Psalm 37:1-5; antiphon: vv. 7a, b

*Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.*

Fret not yourself because of evildoers;

be not envious of wrongdoers!

For they will soon fade like the grass

and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good;

dwelt in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Delight yourself in the LORD,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;

trust in him, and he will act.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

Gloria Patri



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



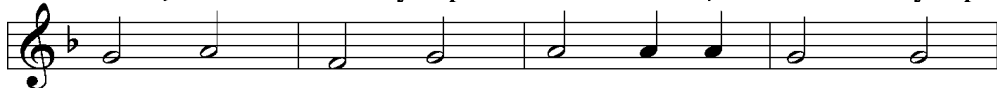
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

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



C 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

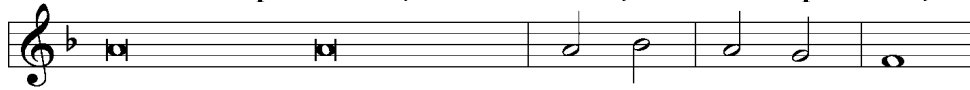
LSB 187



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



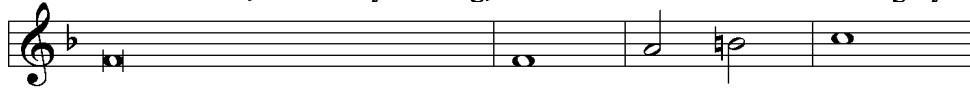
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



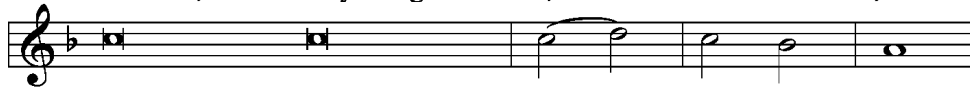
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



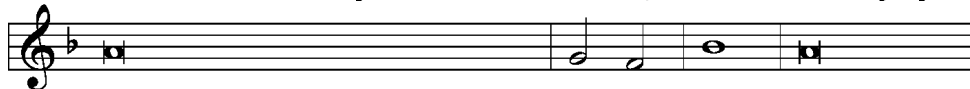
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



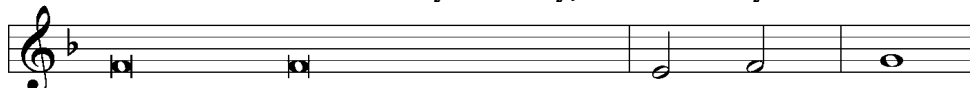
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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.

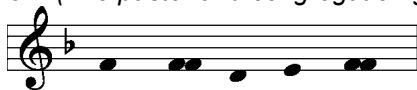


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

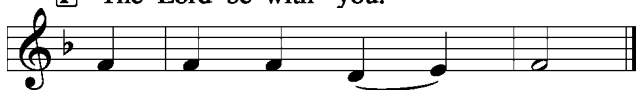


art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

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, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

Genesis 45:3-15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’ ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

- ⁸*The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*
- ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
- ²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,**
and forget not all his benefits,
- ³**who forgives all your iniquity,**
who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴**who redeems your life from the pit,**
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- ⁵**who satisfies you with good**
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶**The LORD works righteousness**
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷**He made known his ways to Moses,**
his acts to the people of Israel.
- ⁸**The LORD is merciful and gracious,**
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹**He will not always chide,**
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- ¹⁰**He does not deal with us according to our sins,**
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹**For as high as the heavens are above the earth,**
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- ¹²**as far as the east is from the west,**
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- ¹³**As a father shows compassion to his children,**
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
- ⁸*The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

³⁰Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another

for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



G Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁷[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G 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

**☩ 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.)

My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

LSB 820



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me
2 He of - fers all His trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and
3 For as a ten - der fa - ther Has pit - y on his
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of
righ - teous - ness, His love be - yond all mea - sure, His
chil - dren here, God in His arms will gath - er All
yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who



mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose
yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we
who are His in child - like fear. He knows how frail our
in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His



meek - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry
mer - it But sets His an - ger by. The poor and con - trite
pow - ers, Who but from dust are made. We flour - ish like the
dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -



weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and
spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh; And high as
flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade; The wind but
cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -



care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who
heav'n a - bove us, As down from close of day, So
through them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er. We
ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.
far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.
with - er like the grass - es; Our place knows us no more.
life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

Sermon “Pressed Down, Shaken Together, Running Over”

(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.

Sit

Offering: (The congregation responds to God’s forgiveness by bringing Him the first fruits of what He has given.)

Choral Offering “Crown Him With Many Crowns”

arr. David N. Johnson

Stand

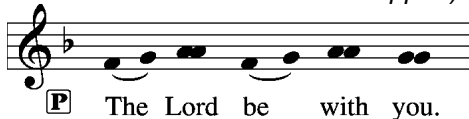
Prayer of the Church: (The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)

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

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.



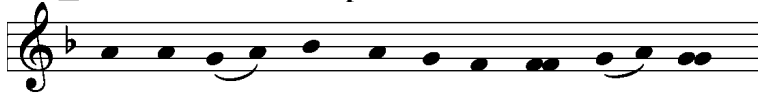
C And with thy spir - it.



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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your 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 (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 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, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us.*)

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

G **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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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.

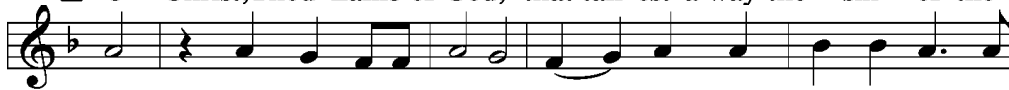


G A - men.

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



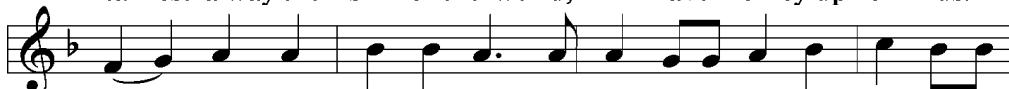
G O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



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

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

LSB 394



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con - fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LSB 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Where Charity and Love Prevail

LSB 845



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
 3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
 char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
 we our faults con - fess; And let us love each
 all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
 mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
 oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
 that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
 Dwells Christ, His only Son;
 As members of His body joined
 We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

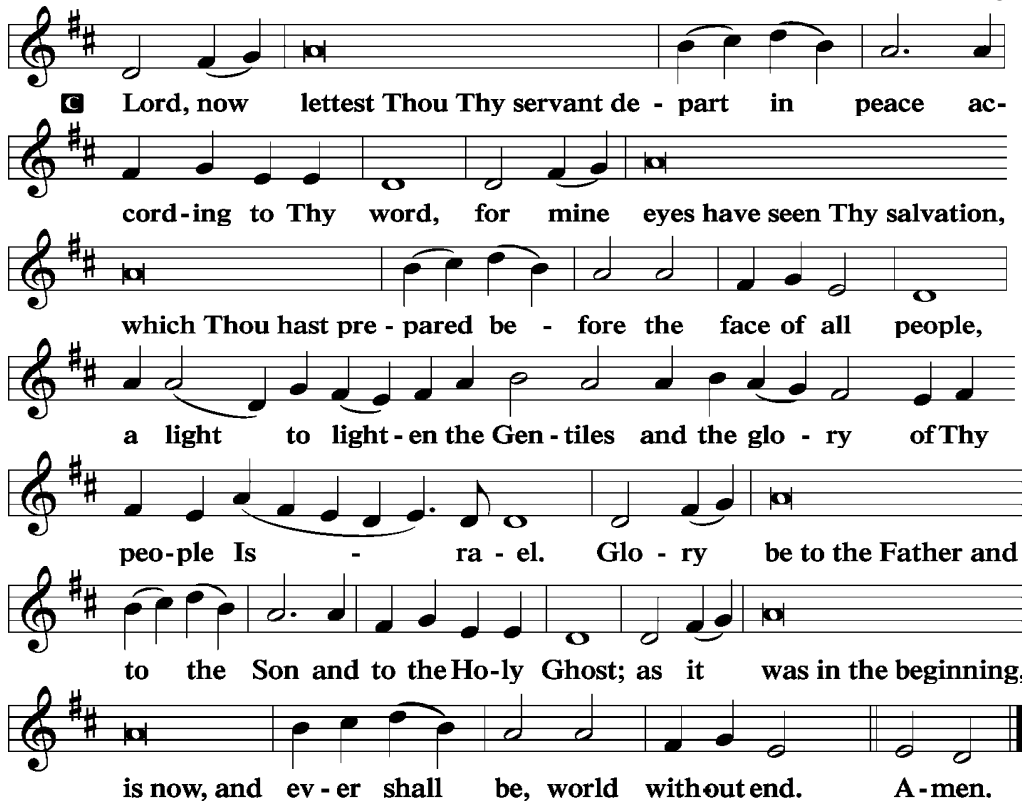
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

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

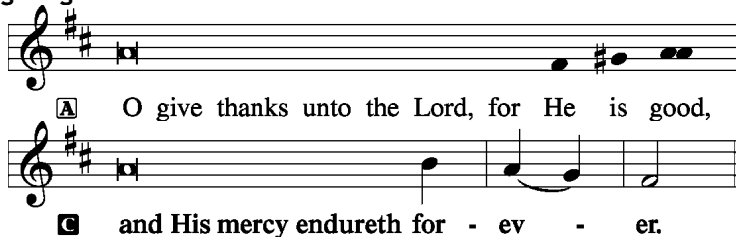
LSB 199



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 - tles 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,
G 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.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benedicamus



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

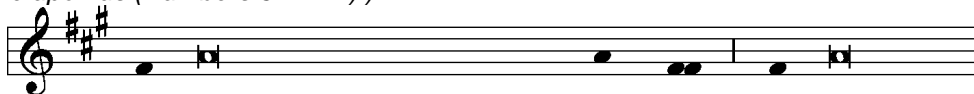


A Bless we the Lord.

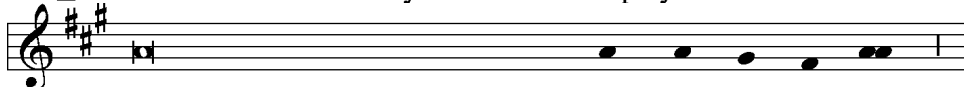


C Thanks be to God.

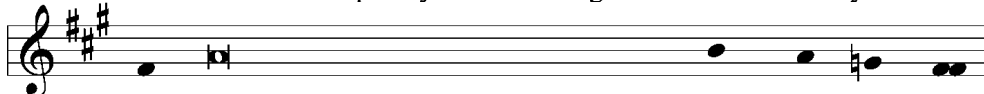
Benediction: *(Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).)* LSB 202



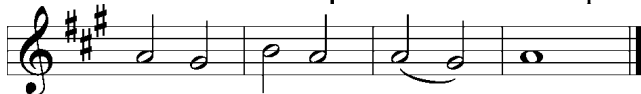
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



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



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



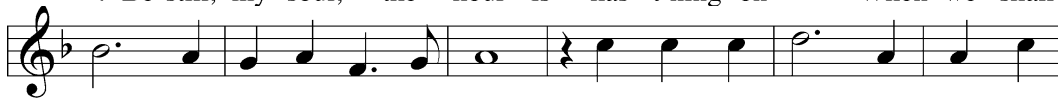
C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn:
Be Still, My Soul

LSB 752



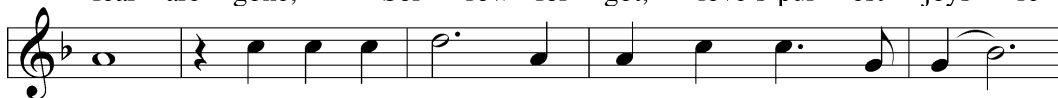
1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa - tient-
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take To guide the
3 Be still, my soul; though dear - est friends de - part And all is
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or - der
fu - ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con - fi - dence let
dark - ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet - ter know His
be for - ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; In ev - 'ry change He faith - ful will re -
noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your
fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly Friend
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
From His own full - ness all He takes a - way.
All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

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



Altar flowers today were given to the Glory of God in celebration of Ellie Woelmer's 4th birthday on the 26th!

February 23rd, 2025

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

Grace Lutheran Church
308 Byrne, Smithville, TX.78957
Office Phone: 512-237-2108
Fax Number: 512 237-2832
Email: gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com
Web Site: www.glcs.org

Learning Center Director, Angel Hurst
401 Wilkes Street, Smithville, TX 78957
Office Phone: 512-360-2800
Fax Number: 512-237-5990
Email: gracelutheranlearningcenter@gmail.com

Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Altar Guild: | Frances Mynar Rose Pietsch | Organist(s): | June Parker Esther Wolff | Kim Appel Ruth Eaton |
| Elders: | Brad Zimmerhanel Bert Bunte | Ushers: | Sterling Brown Vince Kaiser | Acolyte: Olivia Larkin |

AT GRACE THIS WEEK

| <u>Sun. Feb. 23</u> | <u>Mon. Feb. 24</u> | <u>Tue. Feb. 25</u> | <u>Wed. Feb. 26</u> |
|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| 8:45pm- Sunday School & Bible Class 10am- Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class | 8am-Braille 11am-Tower's Nursing Home Devotion 4pm-Quilting | | 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class |
| <u>Thurs. Feb. 27</u> | <u>Fri. Feb. 28</u> | <u>Sat. Mar. 1</u> | <u>Sun. Mar. 2</u> |
| 6pm-Choir | | | 8:45pm- Sunday School & Bible Class 10am- Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class |

Attendance
Sunday Worship (2/16) 125

Visit with Pastor

If you need to contact Pastor Woelmer, you can do so via e-mail (rev.davidwoelmer@gmail.com) or phone (214-218-8354). Pastor Woelmer is normally in the office Monday through Thursday. He is available in the afternoons, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits.

Online Resources

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

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM continues each week. Join us to spend time together in God's Word.

KFUO Bible Study Resources

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: We continue our study of 1 Samuel on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT) and Job on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT). Tune in to the Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9 a.m. CT) to hear the latest installment in our new series on Lutherans in Australia! Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or on the KFUO Radio app!

Choir Practice!

Choir practice is held every Thursday at 6:00 pm. We welcome all singers—no experience needed. Come join us to lift your voice in special service music to help spread the message of God's love. If you have any questions, please contact me in person or phone 218-452-3854. Ruth Eaton

New Podcast!

Check out our new podcast, called "The Faithful Word." On this podcast, you'll find devotions, miscellaneous episodes, and sermons so you can spend time in God's Word wherever you are. Each daily "Congregation at Prayer" devotion is 12 minutes long! Play it in the car or while you've got some free time at home. The main motivation and purpose for this podcast is to help our shut-in and homebound members hear and receive God's Word, so I would greatly appreciate it if you like, subscribe, comment, and share the podcast! That will help tremendously to get the Word out.

Though Billows Tower

Every 4th Monday of the month, Pastor Woelmer will have a devotion with hymns and prayers for the residents at Towers Nursing Home on every fourth Monday of the month from 11-11:30 AM. It will be held in the Activity Room, but if space is limited, it will be held in the Dining Room. Though billows tower in our life, God remains our refuge and strong tower against the enemy (Psalm 61:3).

NEW! Bible Study for Women

The Apostle Paul encourages us in Hebrews 10:24-25 to "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." Join us as we expand our knowledge of Scripture, grow in our Lutheran faith, and dig into the 'why' of our beliefs, beyond surface-level feelings. Our next meeting will on the second Saturday of each month at 10am at the Woelmer's house. All ages welcome. If you have any questions, please reach out to Elizabeth Woelmer 785-213-0206 or Lisa Stem 512-595-4440.

New Photo Directory!

With the help of the Board of Evangelism, planning has begun for our 2025 Photo Directory! We will do everything "in house" to save on costs. We hope to take simple pictures of each family on four Sundays after our church service, and are hoping that we can get pictures of a *majority* of our church members. Please be on the look-out for future announcements and details for the pictures!



Sign up for Easter Lilies is on the bulletin outside the office in the narthex. The cost is \$10.00. Deadline is Sunday, March 9th.

New!! Online Giving

We are excited to announce that we have launched a new and easy way to give to the church! You can give one-time or recurring gifts using Vanco, our new e-giving platform. Use the QR code given here or go to our website (glcs.org) and click the "Giving" button. We are grateful for you unwavering support and generosity towards our church!



LLL Fish Fry

The LLL will have a fish fry on Friday, March 21st at 5:00 PM. The plates will have fish, french fries, hush puppies, and beans. To-go and dine-in plates will be sold for \$15, and desserts will be donation to the LWML. If you would like to volunteer, let Pastor know!

Men's Retreat at Camp Lone Star

Pastor Woelmer will be speaking, along with two other speakers, at the upcoming Men's Retreat hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, TX. This retreat will take place from March 14-16. The topic will be "The Three Estates: The Church, The Family, and The State." All other information, schedule, and registration can be found at <https://www.stpaulaustin.org/lonestar/>.

March 2nd, 2025

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 3:1-6

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36



Spring Raffle

FLHS raffle tickets are now available! Tickets are \$20 each. Drawing will be the week of March 3-7, during National Lutheran Schools Week. Items on this year's raffle include:

- 1) Stihl RZ142 Zero Turn Mower - Valued at \$4000
- 2) \$1500 Travel Voucher
- 3) 1/2 Cow With Processing
- 4) Savage Axis 7mm Deer Rifle with Scope - Valued at \$500
- 5) \$500 Visa Gift Card
- 6) Metal Patriotic Yard Sign
- 7) Porch Package with Ribeye Roll - Includes a 2 person outdoor steel glider/rocker, 5X7 outdoor rug, 16' round end table, and plant
- 8) Hand Crafted wooden train and Lone Star Back Roads Package
- 9) Casserole of the Month for a year
- 10) Dessert of the Month for a year

To see details about each package, please view our Facebook page. A limited number of tickets will be available - get yours today! Please contact any FLHS delegate, student, staff or call (979) 242-2889 to get your tickets!! You don't want to miss out!!

New Student Registration

Registration for 2024-2025 is underway. One new student has already enrolled and we are looking to add more students to our family. Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to **Friday, March 7, 2025** will only pay \$100 in registration fees. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at www.flhstx.org.

Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. 8th Grade parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

Scholarship Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted for an academic-based scholarship from the Amanda (Zoch) Knox Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund will pay for the full tuition for an incoming 9th grade student of Faith Lutheran beginning in the Fall of 2025. Applications are available from Mrs. Kueck or from Cyndy Zoch (cyndy.zoch@gmail.com) and are due May 1, 2025.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are 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 2024 is **March 31, 2025**.