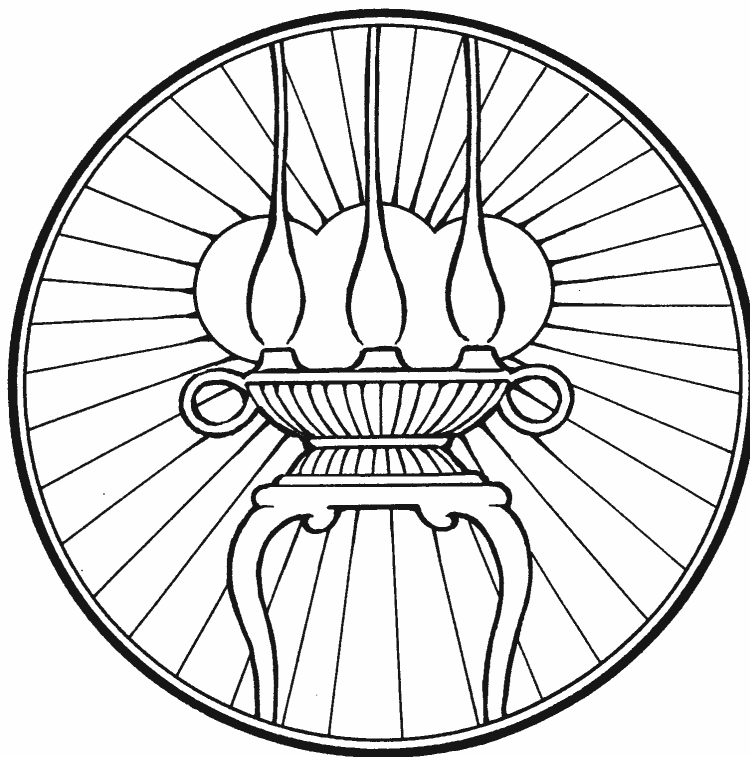


# Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
SMITHVILLE, TEXAS

Divine Service with Holy Communion  
10 AM

Bible Class and Sunday School  
8:45 AM



## Grace Lutheran Church – Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

308 Byrne St. Smithville, TX 78957

512-237-2108 [glcs.org](http://glcs.org)

Pastor David Woelmer

**GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
SMITHVILLE, TX

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.”

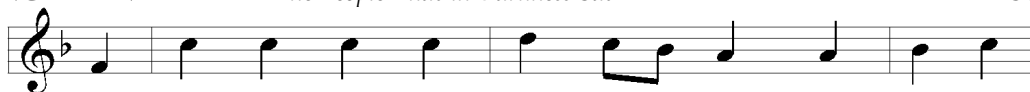
Holy Communion is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus’ own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matt. 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 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 Cor. 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.

In our readings today: *Jesus warns that “unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:20), but He also calls His imperfect people “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:13, 14). That’s because the Lord Jesus came not to abolish the Law or the prophets, “but to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17) in perfect faith and love. Since He does and teaches all of God’s commandments, He is “called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:19). God manifests His “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” in “Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2–4), and through the preaching of the Gospel He gives His “secret and hidden wisdom” (1 Cor. 2:7). Christ gives this perfect righteousness to His people, and it leads them to true fasting, which is “to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free” (Is. 58:6) and “to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house” (Is. 58:7)*

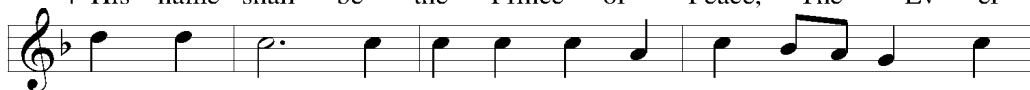
**A Prayer Before Worship:** *O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in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

**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 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
 3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
 na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
 Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
 last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
 har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
 God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

- 5 His righteous government and pow'r                      △ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
     Shall over all extend;    And make us Thine alone,  
 On judgment and on justice based,                              Who with the Father ever art  
     His reign shall have no end,                                      And Holy Spirit, one,  
     His reign shall have no end.                                      And Holy Spirit, one.

**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 come into the presence of our holy God, recognizing our sin and pleading 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:** (*We enter God's house with Psalms of praise*).

*Psalm 119:9–16; antiphon: v. 12*

*Blessed are you, O LORD;*

*teach me your statutes!*

How can a young man keep his way pure?

**By guarding it according to your word.**

With my whole heart I seek you;

**let me not wander from your commandments!**

I have stored up your word in my heart,

**that I might not sin against you.**

Blessed are you, O LORD;

**teach me your statutes!**

With my lips I declare

**all the just decrees of your mouth.**

In the way of your testimonies I delight

**as much as in all riches.**

I will meditate on your precepts

**and fix my eyes on your ways.**

I will delight in your statutes;

**I will not forget your word.**

*Blessed are you, O LORD;*

*teach me your statutes!*

## GLORIA PATRI



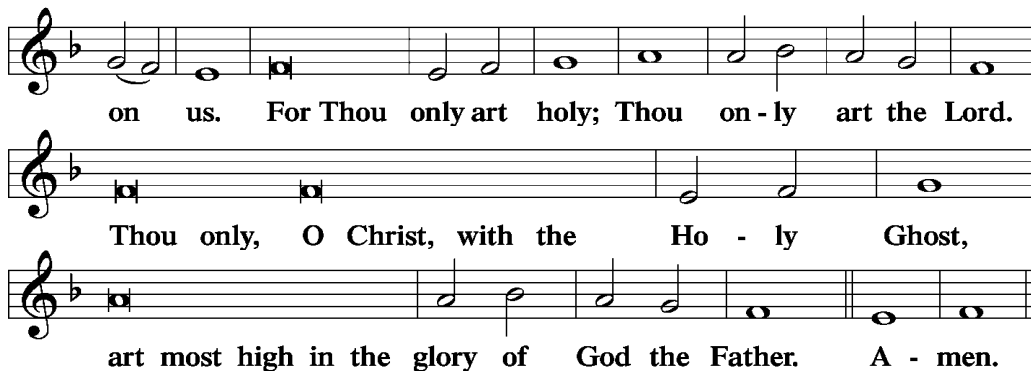
**Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;**



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

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

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 -



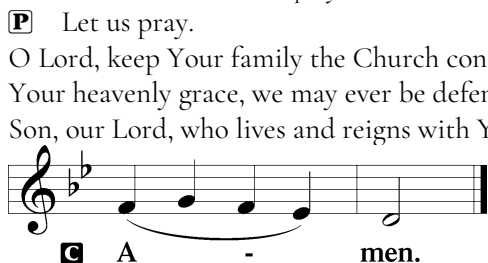
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.  
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

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 OF THE DAY: *(These prayers have been used for over 1,500 years. They "collect" the Gospel theme for the day).*



**P** Let us pray.  
 O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:3-9a

<sup>3</sup>“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?  
 Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?”  
 Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,  
 and oppress all your workers.  
<sup>4</sup>Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
 and to hit with a wicked fist.  
 Fasting like yours this day  
 will not make your voice to be heard on high.  
<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
 a day for a person to humble himself?  
 Is it to bow down his head like a reed,  
 and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?  
 Will you call this a fast,

and a day acceptable to the LORD?  
64Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
7Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover him,  
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?  
8Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up speedily;  
your righteousness shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.  
9Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

*Psalm 112:1–9; antiphon: v. 4*

*4Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;  
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.*

**1Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,  
who greatly delights in his commandments!**

**2His offspring will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

**3Wealth and riches are in his house,  
and his righteousness endures forever.**

*4Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;  
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.*

**5It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;  
who conducts his affairs with justice.**

**6For the righteous will never be moved;  
he will be remembered forever.**

**7He is not afraid of bad news;  
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.**

**8His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,  
until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.**

**9He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever;  
his horn is exalted in honor.**

*4Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;  
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.*

<sup>1</sup>And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

**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

Matthew 5:13–20

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.



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

<sup>13</sup>[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same

way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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



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

NICENE CREED (From the Latin, “Credo,” meaning “I believe.” We say back to God what He says to us).

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

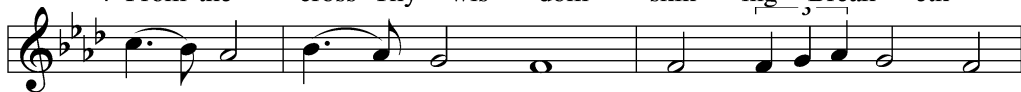
HYMN OF THE DAY:

*Thy Strong Word*

LSB 578



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with  
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

(stanzas 5 & 6 on next page)

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 May the light which Thou dost send  
 Fill our songs with alleluias,  
 Alleluias without end!

△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,  
 To Thee laud and honor be.  
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
 Praise be sung eternally.  
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
 Glory, glory be to Thee.  
 Mortals, angels, now and ever  
 Praise the holy Trinity!

### SERMON

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

Stand

OFFERTORY *(The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with sacrifices of praise).*

**C** 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).*

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *(The congregation prays for the Church and for all people throughout the world).*

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

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

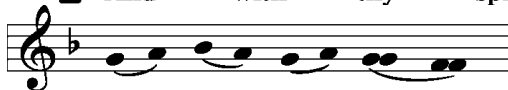
PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE: (*We praise and thank God for what He does for us in the Lord's Supper*). LSB 194



**P** The Lord be with you.



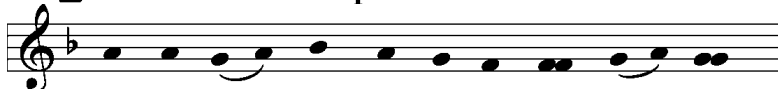
**C** And with thy spir - it.



**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." Heaven joins earth as we cry out with the heavenly host to welcome our Savior Jesus*). 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,



bles - ed is He, bles - 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).* LSB 197

**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.

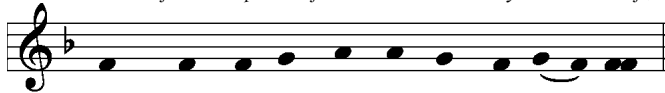
WORDS OF OUR LORD *(Jesus tells us that He gives us His body and blood under the bread and the wine).* LSB 197

**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 body and blood of Jesus gives us peace).*

LSB 197



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



**G** A - men.

**■** 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

Silent Prayer before Communing:

*Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul at the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -  
 2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is  
 3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy  
 4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -  
 5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood  
 keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness  
 a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,  
 glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our  
 His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom  
 And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and  
 Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's  
 A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:  
 of His might All things are just and good and right:  
 praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:  
 ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:  
 from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!  
 To God all praise and glo - ry!  
 To God all praise and glo - ry!  
 To God all praise and glo - ry!  
 To God all praise and glo - ry!

## Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
 2 Dark and cheer - less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by Thee;  
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a-rise; Tri-umph o'er the shades of night.  
 Joy-less is the day's re-turn Till Thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
 Fill me, ra-dian-cy di-vine, Scat-ter all my un-be-lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap-pear.  
 Till they in-ward light im-part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
 More and more Thy-self dis-play, Shin-ing to the per-fect day.

**Silent Prayer after Communing:**

*Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of my sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

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

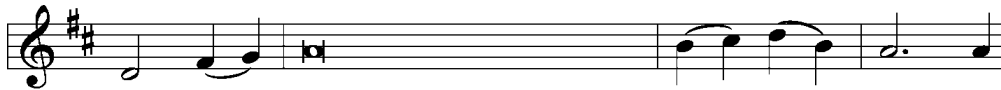
**G** Amen.

*Stand*

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:** *(Having received Christ in 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-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy



peo-ple Is-ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and

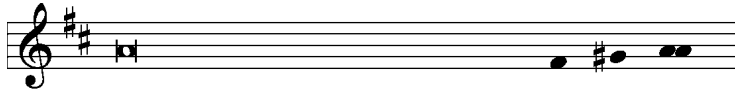


to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

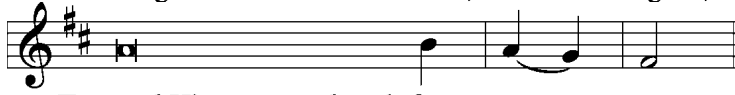


is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING



**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 what He has done 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.

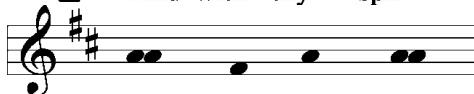
BENEDICAMUS



**P** The Lord be with you.



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



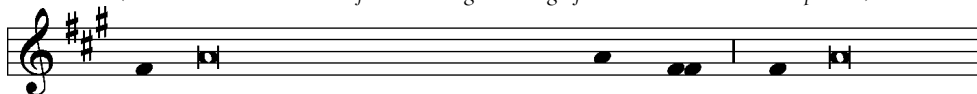
**A** Bless we the Lord.



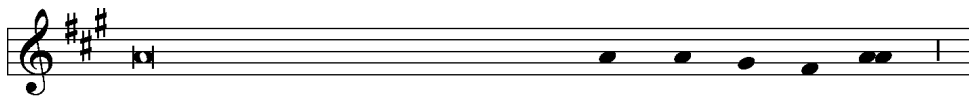
**C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION: *(The Divine Service ends just as it began. We go forth with God's name upon us).*

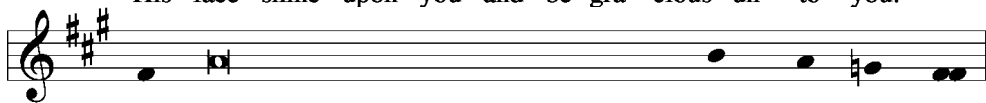
LSB 202



**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

CLOSING HYMN:

*Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me*

LSB 756



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near  
 2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, Though their weight  
 3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, And I will  
 4 From God's joy can noth - ing sev - er, For I am  
 5 Now in Christ, death can - not slay me, Though it might,



With His cheer; Nev - er will He leave me.  
 May be great, They will not de - feat me.  
 Trust Him still, When He sends me sad - ness.  
 His dear lamb, He, my Shep - herd ev - er.  
 Day and night, Trou - ble and dis - may me.



Who can rob me of the heav - en That God's Son  
 God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sends them; He who knows  
 God is good; His love at - tends me Day by day,  
 I am His be - cause He gave me His own blood  
 Christ has made my death a por - tal From the strife



For me won When His life was giv - en?  
 All my woes Knows how best to end them.  
 Come what may, Guides me and de - fends me.  
 For my good, By His death to save me.  
 Of this life To His joy im - mor - tal!

## 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

Hymn of the Month: “*Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me*” (LSB 756)

### Text Background

This hymn of Paul Gerhardt (1607-76) originally consists of twelve stanzas. In the *Lutheran Service Book*, it appears in the “Hope and Comfort,” where it serves as a sung meditation on the crosses that Christians receive from the hand of God. It is said that the final stanza (stanza 8 of the original) was spoken by Gerhardt as a prayer on his deathbed.

Gerhardt knew such crosses firsthand. As we have learned before, he lived through the devastation of the Thirty Years’ War, endured the death of family members, and was eventually removed from his call as pastor for remaining faithful to his ordination vows. Yet through it all, he was able to say confidently, “*Why should cross and trial grieve me? Christ is near with His cheer; never will He leave me*” (stanza 1). We praise God that through Gerhardt’s trials, we now have hymns to sing that continue to teach and console us as they remind us of our loving Savior who “*knows all my woes*” and who “*knows how best to end them*” (stanza 2).

### Stanzas 1, 2 & 3

These opening stanzas establish the hymn’s question-and-answer structure, which guides the entire text.

- 1. “Why should cross and trial grieve me?” *Answer*: Since Christ is near with the promise that He will never leave me, I therefore have all I need, and there is no reason for me to grieve.
- 1. “Who can rob me of the heaven that God’s Son” won for me when He gave His life? *Answer*: The answer is revealed in the question. Since heaven was won for me by the death of God’s Son, no one can rob me of heaven.
- 2. “When life’s troubles rise to meet me, will they defeat me? Will I be despairing?” *Answer*: No, we are not to despair or be defeated, for our loving Savior has sent the cross for our good. He who knows every single woe also knows how best to end them. We are not left alone in our crosses and trials.
- 3. “God gives me days of gladness; should I grieve if He sends me sadness?” *Answer*: God defends and guides us day by day, moment by moment, as His love attends us. What more could we want or need?

### Stanzas 4 & 5

Though the Lord chastens and refines us, He does so to build us up and strengthen our faith in him. The crosses we receive and suffer produce fruit that bears witness to Christ the Crucified. We are not a people of despair, but a people of thanksgiving. Martin Luther described this reality as “*tentatio*” – the trials that make a true theologian. The more we remain in God’s Word, the more the devil afflicts us. Yet this very affliction (*tentatio*) is good because it drives us back to Scripture, prayer, and Christ Himself. So, what is there to fear? Nothing can sever us from God’s joy, not even death itself. It is through the crosses and trials of this life that we are joined ever more closely to our Good Shepherd who gave his blood and died to save us. In Him, death itself is but a “*portal from the strife of this life to His joy immortal.*”