

# First Sunday in Lent

February 22<sup>nd</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

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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.”

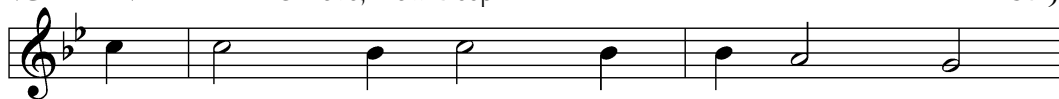
Holy Communion is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting 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: *Following His Baptism, Jesus is “led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matt. 4:1). As He takes upon Himself the curse of our sin and sets Himself against our enemy, He trusts His Father’s voice and waits upon His Father’s hand for all things. The devil questions His sonship, but the beloved and well-pleasing Son remains faithful and lives “by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). Jesus patiently suffers hunger in His mortal flesh and returns to the dust whence man was taken, and by His pain He brings forth food for all the children of men (Gen. 3:18–19). By the sweat of His brow, we eat the fruit of His cross, even as our nakedness is covered by His righteousness. Although all people live in bondage to death through the trespass of the first man, Adam, all the more “have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many” (Rom. 5:15). His righteous obedience “leads to justification and life for all men” (Rom. 5:18).*

**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 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,  
 3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore  
 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
 Of high - er or of low - er place,  
 His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;  
 For us His dai - ly works He wrought,



That God, the Son of God, should take  
 But wore the robe of hu - man frame,  
 For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;  
 By words and signs and ac - tions thus



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
 And to this world Him - self He came.  
 For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
 Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed, △ 7 All glory to our Lord and God  
 For us, in crown of thorns arrayed, For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
 He bore the shameful cross and death; The Trinity whom we adore  
 For us He gave His dying breath. Forever and forevermore.
- 6 For us He rose from death again;  
 For us He went on high to reign;  
 For us He sent His Spirit here  
 To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

**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 come into the presence of our holy God, recognizing our sin and pleading for mercy on account of Christ).*

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

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT: *(We enter God's house with Psalms of praise).*

*Psalms 91:9-13; antiphon: vv. 15-16*

*When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;*

*I will rescue him and honor him.*

*With long life I will satisfy him*

*and show him my salvation.*

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—

**the Most High, who is my refuge—**

no evil shall be allowed to befall you,

**no plague come near your tent.**

For he will command his angels concerning you

**to guard you in all your ways.**

On their hands they will bear you up,

**lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the adder;

**the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.**

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.**

*When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;*

*I will rescue him and honor him.*

*With long life I will satisfy him*

*and show him my salvation.*



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

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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**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 God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Sit

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 3:1–21

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,  
 cursed are you above all livestock  
 and above all beasts of the field;  
 on your belly you shall go,  
 and dust you shall eat  
 all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.”

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,  
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be for your husband,  
and he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said,  
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
‘You shall not eat of it,’  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
<sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread,  
till you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup>The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

*Psalm 32:1–7; antiphon: v. 7a*

<sup>7</sup>*You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;*

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
**whose sin is covered.**

<sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
**and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup>For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
**through my groaning all day long.**

<sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
**my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of  
**my sin.**

<sup>6</sup>Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;

## EPISTLE READING

*Romans 5:12–19*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— <sup>13</sup>for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## VERSE

*Joel 2:13*

**G** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in  
stead-fast love, and a - bound-ing in stead - fast love.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 4:1–11*

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

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, “If you

are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”<sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,’ and  
“On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God  
and him only shall you serve.”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

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

**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.



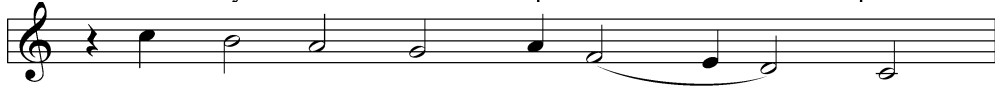
1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,  
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,  
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;  
 Soon were our loss ef - fact ed;  
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,  
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
 But for us fights the val - iant One,  
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 He's by our side up - on the plain



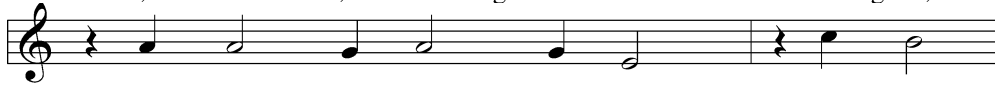
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.  
 Whom God Him - self e - lect ed.  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means  
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus  
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce  
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might  
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,  
 as he will, He can harm us none.  
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth  
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds  
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -  
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.  
 the field for - ev - er.  
 tle word can fell him.  
 dom ours re - main eth.

## SERMON

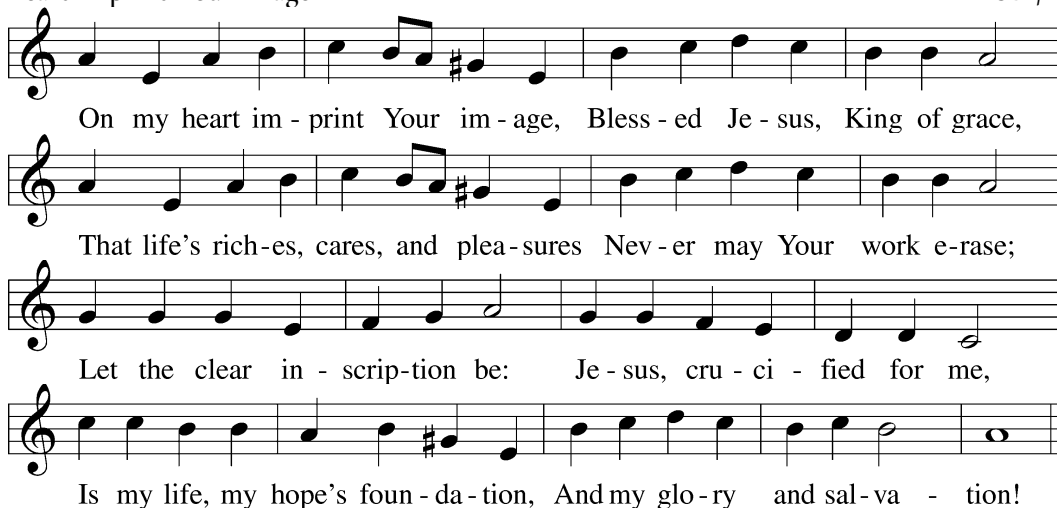
*(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today).*

Stand

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

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,  
That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;  
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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 also 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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death

and will rise again to new life. 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 a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

**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** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:  
**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 (*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

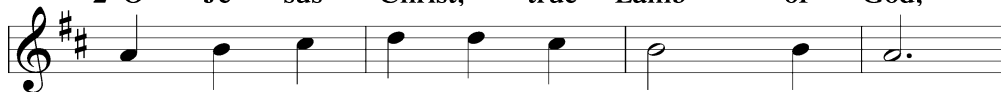
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** Amen.

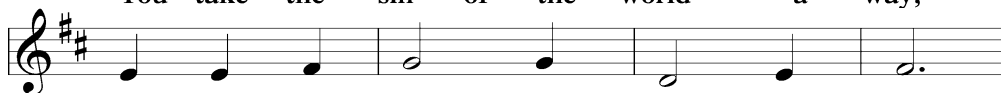
AGNUS DEI: (*Latin for “Lamb of God.” We cry out to Christ our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins*). LSB 198



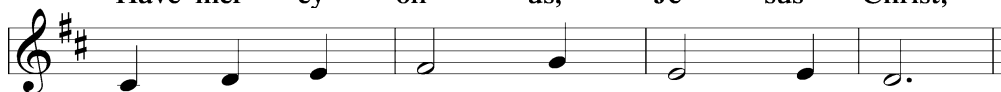
**G** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's  
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,  
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of  
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and  
 as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
 res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's  
 ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -



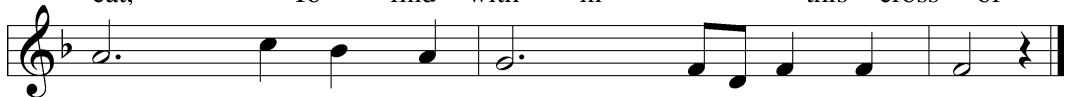
sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this  
 guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of  
 seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a  
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they  
 sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and  
 tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would  
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -  
 death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -  
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and  
 eat, To find with - in this cross of



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
 played With - in the world so new - ly made.  
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!  
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way. The thought shall nev - er  
 2 I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin and ills con -  
 3 And death pur - sues me all the way, No - where I rest se -  
 4 I walk with an - gels all the way, They shield me and be -



leave me That Sa - tan, who has marked his prey, Is  
 tend - ing; In pa - tience I must bear each day The  
 cure - ly; He comes by night, he comes by day, He  
 friend me; All Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay When



plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den snares  
 cross of God's own send - ing. When in ad - ver - si - ty  
 takes his prey most sure - ly. A fail - ing breath, and I  
 heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me; They are my sure de - fense,



May seize me un - a - wares If I should fail to  
 I know not where to flee, When storms of woe my  
 In death's strong grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni -  
 All fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do



watch and pray. I walk in dan - ger all the way.  
 soul dis - may, I pass through tri - als all the way.  
 ty to - day As death pur - sues me all the way.  
 what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.

5 I walk with Jesus all the way,  
 His guidance never fails me;  
 Within His wounds I find a stay  
 When Satan's pow'r assails me;  
 And by His footsteps led,  
 My path I safely tread.  
 No evil leads my soul astray;  
 I walk with Jesus all the way.

6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;  
 Await, my soul, the morrow,  
 When God's good healing shall allay  
 All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.  
 Then, worldly pomp, begone!  
 To heav'n I now press on.  
 For all the world I would not stay;  
 My walk is heav'nward all the way.



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.  
 2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.  
 3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.  
 4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,  
 5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.  
 Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.  
 Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swerv-ing love.  
 Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.  
 Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

#### 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

Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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.

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** Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**G** 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 on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

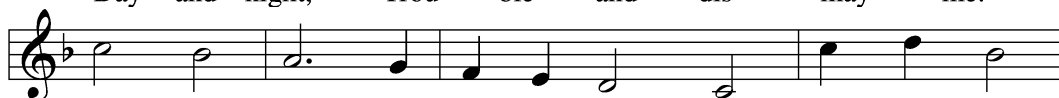
**G** Amen.



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.*”



