

# Third Sunday in Lent

March 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.”

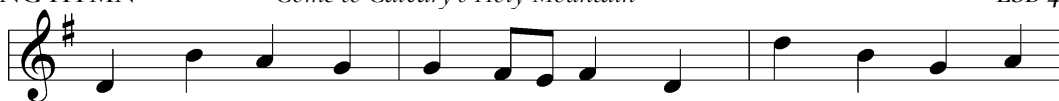
Holy Communion is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting 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: *Though the Lord had brought them out of Egypt, “all the congregation of the people of Israel” grumbled against Him because “there was no water for the people to drink” (Ex. 17:1). Despite their quarreling, the Lord graciously provided for them. He did not strike the people for their sins, but by the hand of Moses He struck the rock instead and brought forth water for the people. In the same way, living water flows from the pierced side of Christ at “about the sixth hour” (John 4:6; 19:14), when He is lifted up on the cross for the sins of the world. He is “the gift of God” (John 4:10), the well from which the Holy Spirit is poured out and becomes in His people “a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:14). By this grace in which we stand, being at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, we “worship the Father in spirit and truth” (John 4:23). “We rejoice in hope of the glory of God” because “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom. 5:2, 5)*

**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 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined  
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -  
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -  
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain  
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,  
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,  
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -  
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and  
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain  
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.  
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.  
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.  
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

**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** 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).*

*Psalm 84:1-4; antiphon: v. 5*

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.*

How lovely is your dwelling place,

**O LORD of hosts!**

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;

**my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

**at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

Blessed are those who dwell in your house,

**ever singing your praise!**

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.**

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,*

*in whose heart are the highways to Zion.*

**KYRIE:** *(From the Greek, "Kyrie eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy").*

*LSB 204*



**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 God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

<sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 95:1-9; antiphon: v. 6

<sup>6</sup>Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>1</sup>Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

<sup>8</sup>when your fathers put me to the test  
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

<sup>6</sup>Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

## EPISTLE READING

*Romans 5:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## VERSE

*Joel 2:13*

**C** 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

*John 4:5-30, 39-42*

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

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

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup>There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” <sup>28</sup>So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup>“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” <sup>30</sup>They went out of the town and were coming to him. . . .

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

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

**C** Praise to You, 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

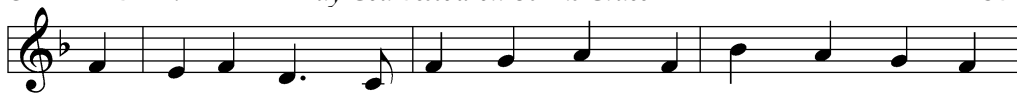
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

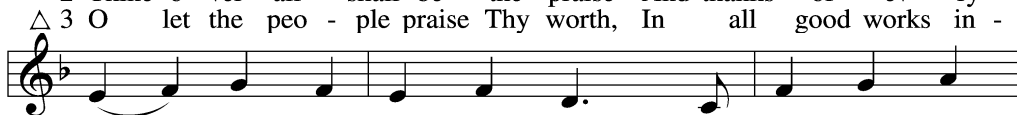
HYMN OF THE DAY:

*May God Bestow on Us His Grace*

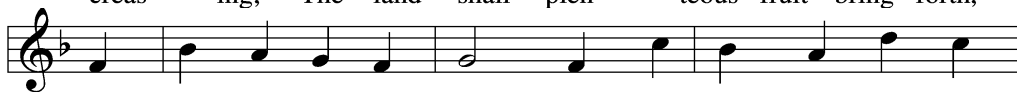
LSB 824



1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -  
2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry



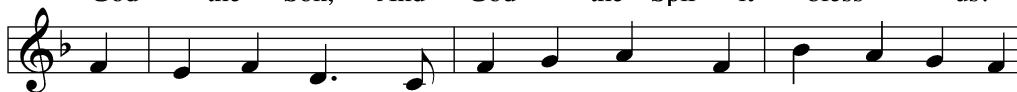
△ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -  
vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face  
na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise  
creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,



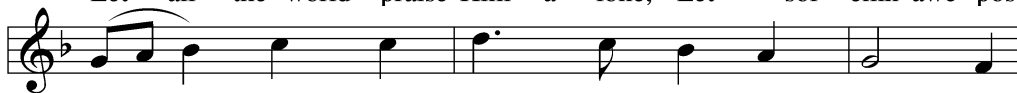
To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing  
The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the  
Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,



health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,  
earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;  
God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!



And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out  
Thy peo - ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and  
Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -



mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.  
nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.  
sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

## SERMON

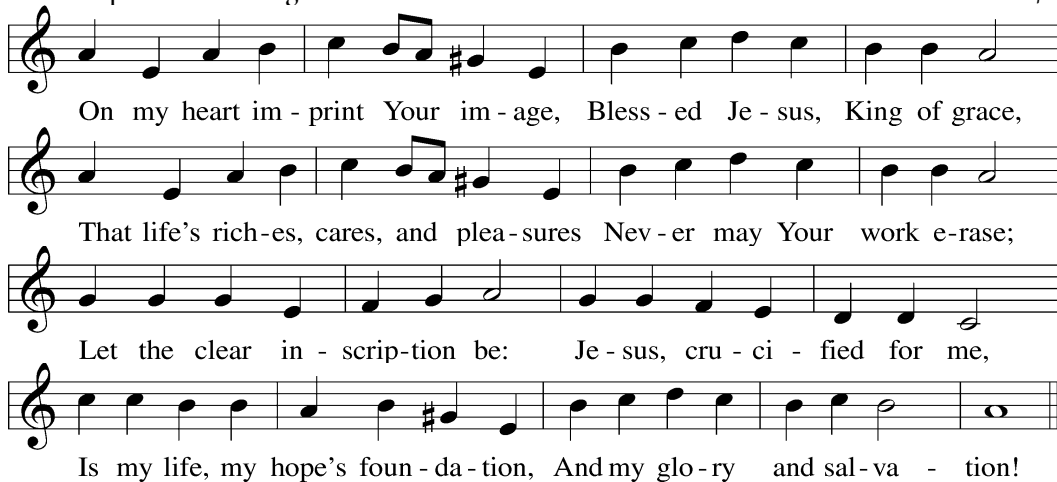
*(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today).*

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 208

- 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:



**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 209

- 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 209

- 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 209

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

**C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI: (Latin for "Lamb of God." We cry out to Christ our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins).

LSB 210

**C** 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 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
 Were as scarlet my transgression,  
 It shall be as white as snow  
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
 For these words I now believe:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
 Also I have been forgiven;  
 And when I this earth must leave,  
 I shall find an open heaven.  
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

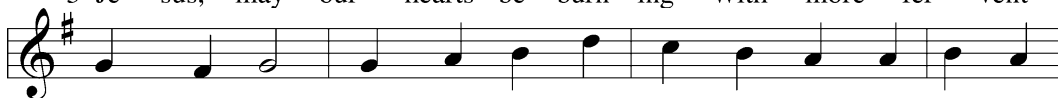
6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
 From the Law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ hath purchased my release  
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

LSB 423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -  
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



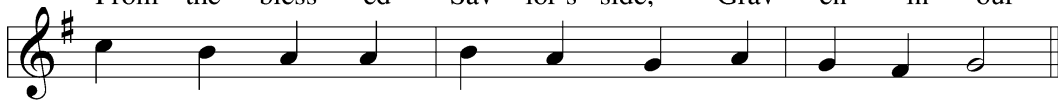
whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior  
 pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your  
 love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,  
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us  
 hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the  
 Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your  
 From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.  
 grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
 hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

How Wide the Love of Christ

LSB 535



1 How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race But  
 2 How long the love of Christ! Its pa - tience will not cease Un -  
 3 How high the love of Christ! Be - yond all thought it soars, And  
 4 How deep the love of Christ, De - scend - ing to a cross! He  
 5 All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height, Whose



holds our one hu - man - i - ty With - in its broad em - brace.  
 til this bro - ken world is bound In ev - er - last - ing peace.  
 yet up - on our pass - ing lives Un - mea - sured mer - cy pours.  
 bears with - in His wound - ed hands All hu - man pain and loss.  
 length and breadth fill time and space With end - less life and light!

### 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

**G** 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.

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** Amen.

**BENEDICAMUS**

**P** Let us bless 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 212*

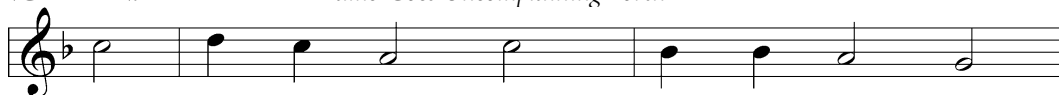
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

**C** Amen.

*Sit*



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The  
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The  
 3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll  
 4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And



guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the  
 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther  
 bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to  
 taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al



sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes  
 chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go  
 Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O  
 robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When



pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -  
 forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren  
 won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers  
 I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall



out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the  
 from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and  
 up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how  
 be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in



stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and  
 stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion  
 strong You are to save! You lay the One in -  
 gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall



yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."  
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."  
 to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.  
 we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.

### **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: “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” (LSB 438)

### Text Background

It is fitting that we reflect on this hymn during the season of Lent. This hymn is appointed for the Sunday of the Passion (also observed on Palm Sunday) and has historically been designated for Good Friday. In the first three stanzas, Paul Gerhardt (1607-76) beautifully contemplates Christ as our Suffering Savior by leading us through a dialogue between the Father and the Son. A similar dialogue also appears in the hymn, “*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*” (LSB 556, stanza 5).

### Stanza 1

If you think back to a time that someone slandered you, hurt your reputation, or spoke falsely about you, you may remember how painful such betrayal felt, and how eager you were to defend yourself. As Gerhardt retells the Passion of Christ, who obediently “goes patient on” to the cross, he shows us the betrayal and suffering our Lord endured. By willingly entering into suffering and enduring unimaginable cruelty, Christ fulfills the Servant’s path foretold by Isaiah. He is struck and mocked, yet He does not retaliate or defend himself. He stands silent before His accusers (Isaiah 50:6; 53:7) and is led to slaughter for our sake “without complaint.” What a sacrifice! This “spotless” Lamb bears not His own guilt but ours. In doing so, He becomes the atoning sacrifice (1 John 2:2) who “gladly” carries our sins in His body on the tree (1 Peter 2:22-24).

### Stanza 2

“Go forth, My Son’ the Father said.” The Son is the Father’s chosen gift, sent as the Lamb of God (John 1:25) so that the world might not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). He bears hard things: not only the “stripes,” but also the “wrath” of God. He takes our dread, guilt, and condemnation and frees us by his precious blood (1 Peter 1:19-20; Hebrews 2:14-15). He becomes the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:9-10). Then, as Gerhardt emphasizes, the Father declares something remarkable: through Christ’s passion, we share in the fruit of His salvation. We are made partakers of the Father’s divine love. We are reunited and reconciled, redeemed and restored to our heavenly Father whose “favor” now rests upon us.

### Stanza 3

The Son answers the Father with perfect obedience: “I delight to do Your will” (Ps. 40:8; Heb. 10:7). In the language of the hymn: “I will bear what you command me ... I will conform my life, actions, and will to your decree ... I will do what you have asked.” O wondrous Love! The Father does not spare His own Son but gives Him up for us all (Romans 8:32). The Creator through whom all things were made (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16) – the Author of life – humbles Himself even to death and burial. The One who laid the earth’s foundation is laid in the grave for our salvation.

### Stanza 4

Here we see the “fruit” of Christ’s salvation: we are clothed not in our works, but in His righteousness. The “garments of salvation” (Isaiah 61:10) are the bridal garments given to the Church, whom Christ “loved and gave Himself up for” (Ephesians 5:25), betrothing her as a pure bride (2 Corinthians 11:2). He is the Bridegroom whose presence turns sorrow into joy (Mark 2:19). At the last, the marriage feast of the Lamb will come, and the Bride will stand arrayed in His righteousness (Revelation 19:7-8; 21:2). The Lamb who suffered “once for all” (1 Peter 3:18) now prepares His people to stand in eternal joy beside Him.



