

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15th, 2026



Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, Texas

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY (1927-2027)
Centennial Celebration Kick-Off Sunday

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

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: *The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. “For his righteousness’ sake,” He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). Jesus turns “the darkness before them into light” (Is. 42:16) because He is “the light of the world” (John 9:5). The incarnate Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh “while it is day,” until that night “when no one can work” (John 9:4). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though “at one time you were darkness,” now “you are light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8). By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to “awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead” (Eph. 5:14).*

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 Re - joice, my heart, be glad and sing, A
 2 He is your trea - sure, He your joy, Your
 3 Why spend the day in blank de - spair, In
 4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard

cheer - ful trust main - tain; For God, the source of
 life and light and Lord, Your coun - sel - or when
 rest - less thought the night? On your Cre - a - tor
 ev - 'ry child - hood day? And did He not in

ev - 'ry - thing, Your por - tion shall re - main.
 doubts an - noy, Your shield and great re - ward.
 cast your care; He makes your bur - dens light.
 threat - 'ning hour Turn dread - ed ills a - way?

- 5 He only will with patience chide, 7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
 His rod falls gently down; And trust His guiding love;
 And all your sins He casts aside Then like a rock your peace shall stand
 In ocean depths to drown. Here and in heav'n above.
- 6 His wisdom never plans in vain
 Nor falters nor mistakes.
 All that His counsels may ordain
 A blessèd ending makes.

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 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15

*My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.*

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

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.

*My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.*

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.

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

C Amen.

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
 I have kept still and restrained myself;
 now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
 I will gasp and pant.
¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
 and dry up all their vegetation;
 I will turn the rivers into islands,
 and dry up the pools.
¹⁶And I will lead the blind
 in a way that they do not know,
 in paths that they have not known
 I will guide them.
 I will turn the darkness before them into light,
 the rough places into level ground.
 These are the things I do,
 and I do not forsake them.
¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
 who trust in carved idols,
 who say to metal images,
 “You are our gods.”
¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
 and look, you blind, that you may see!
¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
 or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
 Who is blind as my dedicated one,
 or blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
 his ears are open, but he does not hear.
²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake,
 to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 142; antiphon: v. 5

⁵*I cry to you, O LORD;*
I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”
¹With my voice I cry out to the LORD;
with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.
²I pour out my complaint before him;
I tell my trouble before him.
³When my spirit faints within me, you know my way!
In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

⁴Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me;
no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

⁵I cry to you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

⁶Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

⁷Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name!

The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

⁵I cry to you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is
pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.
¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is
exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it
says,

"Awake, O sleeper,

and arise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you."

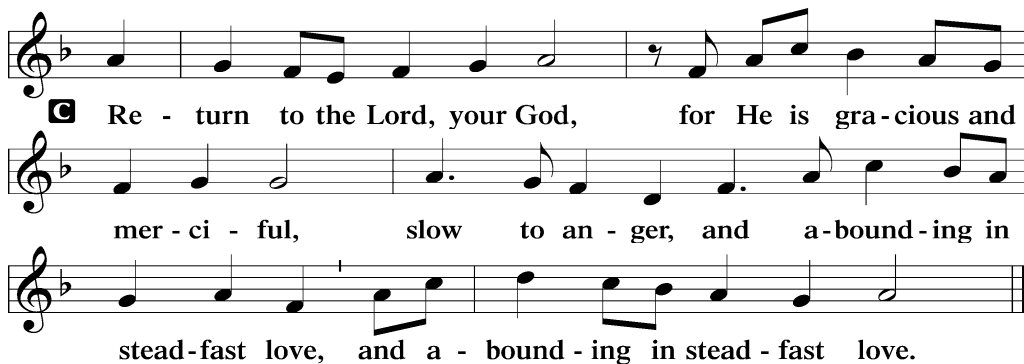
P This is the Word of the Lord.

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 9:1–41

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and

made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G 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:

God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571



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

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.

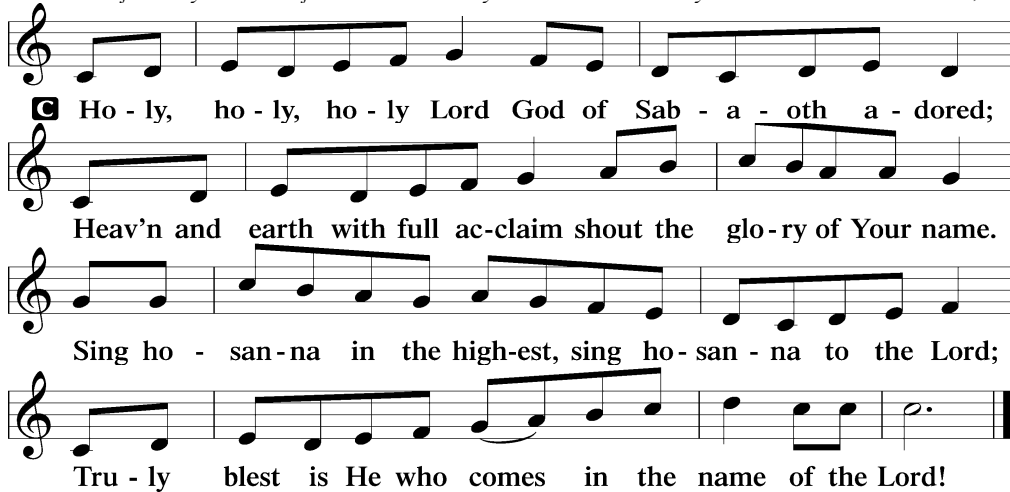
C We lift them to the Lord.

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:

SANCTUS: (*Latin for "holy." Heaven joins earth as we cry out with the heavenly host to welcome our Savior Jesus.*) LSB 208



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 ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

PAX DOMINI: (Latin for "The peace of the Lord." The 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

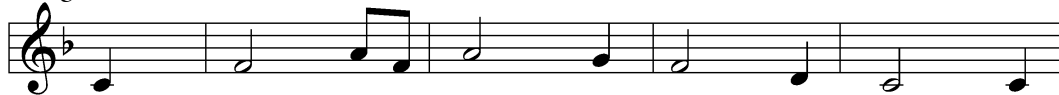
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Silent Prayer before Communing:

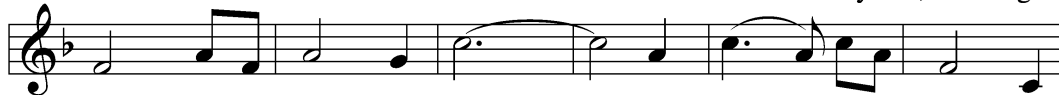
Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul at the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one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

Amazing Grace

LSB 744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

LSB 421



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing
death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
 Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing
 Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
 wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
 ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
 pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
 tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

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.

Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

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

G Amen.

POST-COMMUNION 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.

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.

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

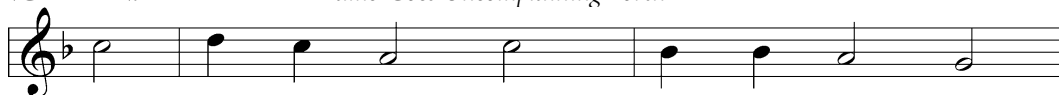
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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 1:29) 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.



1927 - 2027 Centennial Celebration
Grace Lutheran Church – Smithville, Texas
Celebrating 100 Years of Ministry

Grace Lutheran Church is preparing to celebrate **100 years of God's faithfulness** to our congregation and community. Throughout the coming year, we will gather for **special worship services and events** that reflect on the Lord's work among us and renew our commitment to the Gospel for the next generation.

Our centennial theme is drawn from the life of the Church in Christ:
Rooted in Grace – Growing in Grace – Sharing Grace – Remaining in Grace

For a century, the Lord has planted this congregation firmly in His Word and Sacraments. By His grace, we have grown in faith, shared the Gospel with our neighbors, and remained steadfast in Christ through every season of life. As Scripture reminds us:

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
— Hebrews 13:8

And our mission continues according to our Lord's command:
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."
— Matthew 28:19–20

We invite members, former members, neighbors, and friends to join us throughout this special year as we celebrate **100 years of God's faithfulness** and look forward to the future Christ has prepared for Grace.

EVENTS:

1. Kick-off Sunday, March 15, 2026: **"A CENTURY OF GRACE — ROOTED IN CHRIST, REACHING OUT IN LOVE"**
2. Celebrating 1927-1959, May 3, 2026: **"ROOTED IN GRACE"**
3. Celebrating 1960-1979, August 2, 2026: **"GROWING IN GRACE"**
4. Celebrating 1980-1999, November 9, 2026: **"SHARING IN GRACE"**
5. Celebrating 2000-2019, February 7, 2027: **"REMAINING IN GRACE"**
6. Celebrating 2020-2027, April 25, 2027: **GRAND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**