

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026



**Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, Texas**

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY (1927-2027)**  
First Centennial Celebration (1927-1959)

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: The risen Lord Jesus alone is “the way, and the truth, and the life,” and we come “to the Father” only through Him (John 14:6). God is thus “glorified in the Son,” and those who believe in Him will do the works of Christ because He goes to the Father for us (John 14:12–14). Stephen, “a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5) and “doing great wonders and signs among the people” (Acts 6:8), did the works of Christ. When he was falsely accused and put to death, he “gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God” (Acts 7:55). Fixing his hope there, he commended his spirit to the Lord Jesus and prayed for his murderers. In the same way, all the baptized are called to follow the example of Christ Jesus by faith. Though He was “rejected by men” in the sight of God, He is “chosen and precious” (1 Peter 2:4). He is the chief cornerstone of the Father’s “spiritual house,” and we are built upon Him as “living stones” (1 Peter 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 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;  
 2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,  
 △ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His  
 And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til  
 Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.  
 that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.  
 pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

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

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

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

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

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.  
**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.  
**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**ABSOLUTION:** *(God speaks His words of forgiveness to us through His servant, the pastor).*

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

*Psalm 30:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1*

*Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the godly!*

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up  
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,  
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

*Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the godly!*

## GLORIA PATRI

**G** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

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

*LSB 186*

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

HYMN OF PRAISE: *(We join the church in heaven and on earth in a song of praise to our Creator, Savior, and Comforter).*

Gloria in Excelsis

*LSB 187*

**P** Glory be to God on high: **G** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



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

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

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

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

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

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

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

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

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

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



**P** The Lord be with you.



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

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

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60*

<sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

<sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

<sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

<sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

<sup>2</sup>And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

<sup>5</sup>You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

<sup>2</sup>*I will praise the LORD as long as I live;*  
*I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

**Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in princes,  
**in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>When his breath departs he returns to the earth;  
**on that very day his plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,  
**who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed,  
**who gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup>the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
**but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever,  
**your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

<sup>2</sup>*I will praise the LORD as long as I live;*  
*I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.*

## EPISTLE READING

*1 Peter 2:2–10*

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
 a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
 and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
 has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup>and

“A stone of stumbling,  
 and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

## ALLELUIA

LSB 190



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

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



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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

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



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

**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  $\text{✝}$  everlasting. Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY:

*At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

LSB 633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

(stanzas 5-8 on next page)

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You shall rise.  
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
Newborn souls in You to be.  
Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, Your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

**SERMON "Rooted in Grace"**

*(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).*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sit

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



# Rite of Confirmation

LSB 272

Wyatt Fisher

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Jase Geigenmiller

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Cason Herschap

Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Olivia Larkin

Psalms 55:22 Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Luke Oates

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

Stand

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

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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



**P** The Lord be with you.



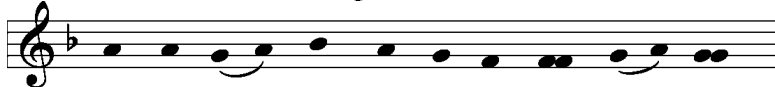
**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



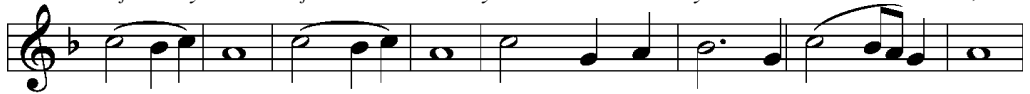
**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS: (*Latin for "holy." Heaven joins earth as we cry out with the heavenly host to welcome our Savior Jesus*). LSB 195



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER: (*We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us*). LSB 197

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

**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;

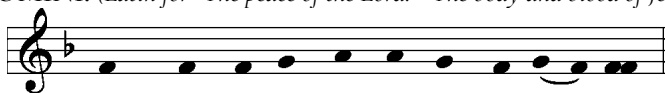
and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**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."



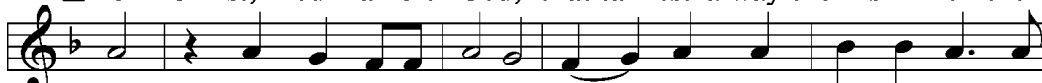
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.



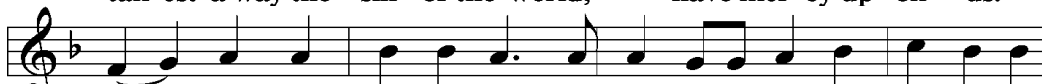
**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



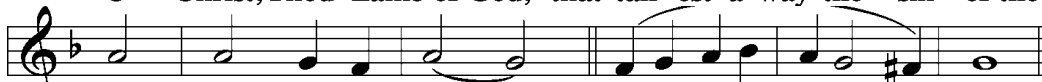
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



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



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Silent Prayer before Communing:

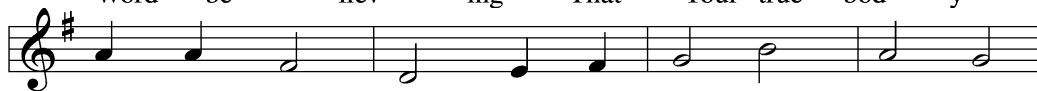
*Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul at the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one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



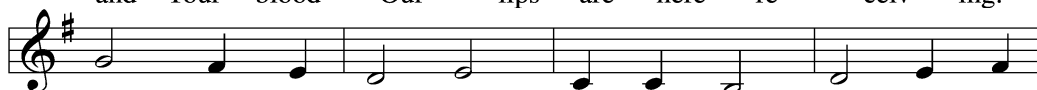
1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for  
 2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel  
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y  
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y  
 hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence  
 hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent  
 Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion  
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,  
 e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.  
 and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to  
 And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry  
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by  
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort and for par - don.  
 and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,  
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.  
 pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

5 Though reason cannot understand,  
 Yet faith this truth embraces:  
 Your body, Lord, is even now  
 At once in many places.  
 I leave to You how this can be;  
 Your Word alone suffices me;  
 I trust its truth unailing.

6 Lord, I believe what You have said;  
 Help me when doubts assail me.  
 Remember that I am but dust,  
 And let my faith not fail me.  
 Your supper in this vale of tears  
 Refreshes me and stills my fears  
 And is my priceless treasure.

7 Grant that we worthily receive  
 Your supper, Lord, our Savior,  
 And, truly grieving for our sins,  
 May prove by our behavior  
 That we are thankful for Your grace  
 And day by day may run our race,  
 In holiness increasing.

8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,  
 Be praised throughout all ages!  
 Preserve it, for in ev'ry place  
 The world against it rages.  
 Grant that this sacrament may be  
 A blessèd comfort unto me  
 When living and when dying.



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when  
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most  
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His  
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how  
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



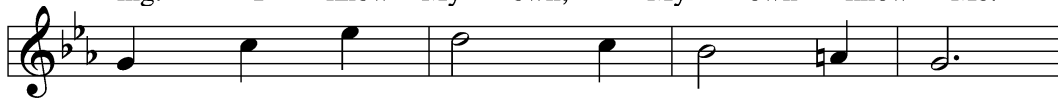
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in  
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His  
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal  
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's  
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -  
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -  
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -  
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives  
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,  
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove  
 tion. Were we but two His name to tell,  
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim  
 ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,  
 Choos - es to live with us in love,  
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,  
 You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.  
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.  
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.  
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.  
 My peace I leave with you. A - men."



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -  
 4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,  
 help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,  
 strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter  
 love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less  
 Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
 Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I  
 How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me  
 strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to  
 feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my  
 tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.  
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
 heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.  
 an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

#### Silent Prayer after Communing:

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

#### Stand

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

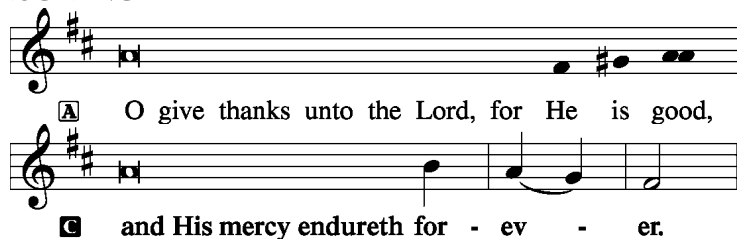
**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.



**■** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING



**▲** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**■** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT: *(We thank God for what He has done and ask that it would show forth in our lives).*

**■** 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.

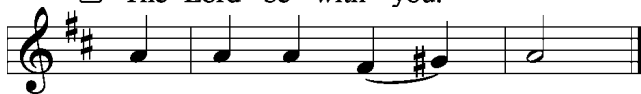


**■** A - men.

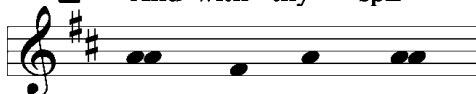
BENEDICAMUS



**P** The Lord be with you.



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



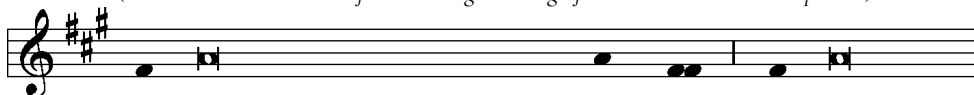
**A** Bless we the Lord.



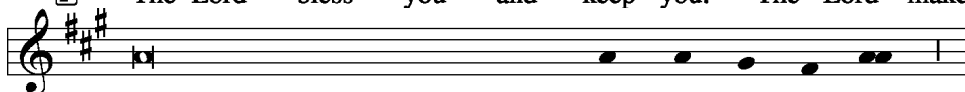
**C** Thanks be to God.

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

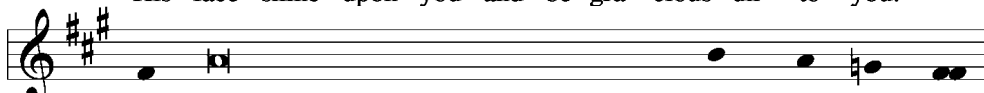
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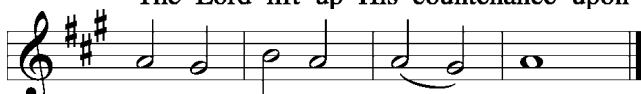
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



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



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

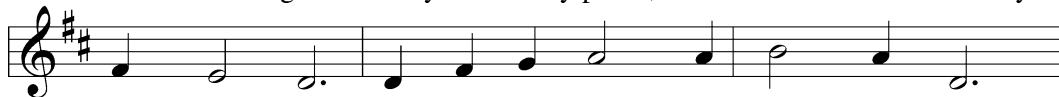


**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sit



1 Je - sus, Thybound - less love to me No thought can reach, no  
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul Maydwell, but Thy pure  
 3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to  
 4 In suf - f'ring be Thy love my peace, In weak - ness be Thy



tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,  
 love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,  
 Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,  
 love my pow'r; And when the storms of life shall cease,



And reign with-out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -  
 My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my  
 Burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be  
 O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, Be Thou my rod and



lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.  
 heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.  
 all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.  
 staff and guide, And draw me safe - ly to Thy side!

### 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

### Text Background

In an age where contemporary Christian music is often praised for resonating with people’s emotions and older hymns are dismissed as cold or overly doctrinal, Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) stands as a clear contradiction to that assumption. He has been called the “suffering poet of the heart,” one who delivers a rich “theology of the heart” through his hymns because of the “beauty of their language, the depth of their theology, and the comfort they give to those who are suffering” (LSB Companion to the Hymns, 913).

Because Gerhardt writes as one who suffered deeply, his hymns are anything but cold and abstract. He gives voice to the sorrow, longing, and hope of the Christian life—writing as one who knows and understands what we feel, sense, and suffer.

This hymn, “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me,” originally consisted of sixteen stanzas and is based on a prayer of thanksgiving on the love of Christ found in *Paradiesgärtlein* (“Little Garden of Paradise”), a collection of meditations by Johann Arndt (1555-1621), Lutheran pastor and theologian.

### Text Commentary

**Stanza 1:** “What makes the love of Jesus “boundless”? Certainly, it is immeasurable and incomprehensible to human reason. As Psalm 103:11 declares, “*as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.*” It surpasses knowledge (Ephesians 3:19), exceeding what our thoughts can grasp or our speech can express. Yet this love is also “boundless” in that it is not distant, but unites us to Christ. “*I have been crucified with Christ ... Christ lives in me*” (Galatians 2:20). Through this union, Christ dwells in us (1 John 3:24), ruling our heart without rival. Though we are daily tempted to replace Christ’s love with lesser loves—material idols that fade—His boundless love claims us again and makes it possible for us to sing: “*Thine wholly, Thine alone I am.*”

**Stanza 2:** If Christ dwells in our hearts through faith (Ephesians 3:17), then we take up this prayer: “May nothing but His love dwell within us!” Jesus says, “*If you love me, you will keep my commandments*” (John 14:15). His love—and our love for him—shapes our whole life. St. Paul writes, “*Let all that you do be done in love*” (1 Corinthians 16:14). Christ’s love becomes our “**joy, our treasure, and our crown.**” And yet, we have this treasure in jars of clay (2 Corinthians 4:7). Our hearts are weak and often cold. Therefore, we return to the “one thing needful” (Luke 10:42): the reception of Christ’s love where he has promised to give it—through His Word and Sacraments—so that His life may be lived out in us in act, word, and thought (1 John 2:3-6).

**Stanza 3:** The world urges us to pursue our goals, dreams, and ambitions. The Christian, however, pursues something greater: “***This love unwearied I pursue and dauntlessly to Thee aspire.***” We are not passive. Having received Christ’s love, we cling to it and remain in it, just as He commands, “*Abide in my love*” (John 15:9). His love renews our hope and kindles a heavenly fire within the soul. Thus, day and night, we are watchful to “***guard this sacred treasure***” since it has been entrusted to us. To abide in His love is to remain in Christ Himself.

**Stanza 4:** Since we are called to “*rejoice in our sufferings*” (Romans 5:3), it is appropriate (and necessary) to confess that God’s love does not always remove suffering, but instead gives it meaning and peace. As Psalm 23:4 says, “*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.*” Indeed, it is in weakness that God’s power is made perfect (2 Corinthians 12:9). In a world that opposes Christ (John 15:19) we do not seek to escape suffering, but to endure it with Christ’s love as our strength. And when the storms of life cease and my final hour comes, Christ remains my “***rod and staff and guide.***” He will not abandon me in death, but who will “***draw me safely to Thy side!***” That’s what it means that his love is truly “boundless!”