

WELCOME TO GRACE: We rejoice over your presence this day as we gather in the Name and in the worship of our Lord. If you are a GUEST with us today, we hope you feel welcome in our church family and invite you to worship with us again. If you are interested in membership at Grace or want to know more about our church and our faith, please indicate your interest on the ATTENDANCE FORM in the pew.

Grace's Mission

✝ Sharing God's Grace

✝ Living His Word

✝ Making Disciples

Grace Lutheran Church is one of more than six thousand congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

We Believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the sole source for all Christian teaching and practice. *II Timothy 3:16*

We Believe "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

We Believe "by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." *Ephesians 2:8-9*

We Believe our relationship with everyone is based upon Jesus' words: "Love one another as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

Child Care We care about your children. We encourage parents with small children to help them participate in our worship. We ask you to have your children go to the restroom and get a drink before the service, and refrain from leaving during worship, unless there is an emergency. We have available a cry room equipped with sound located at the back of the sanctuary. Children's bulletins with activities are available. A nursery is available for children age 3 and under. Ask an usher for directions.

Hearing Impaired For those who need assistance, please ask an usher for a wireless hearing aid. They are easy to use.

 **WORSHIP FOLDER** 
INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED
JULY 7, 2024

“FREEDOM IN CHRIST”

AS WE GATHER

Today is the 248th anniversary of our declaration of freedom from Great Britain. Just as in the exodus, the people who fought for freedom were scared. There were times, like Valley Forge, when the situation looked hopeless, just like the situation looked hopeless when Jesus lay in the tomb for three days. However, Jesus was raised from the dead and offers us freedom—not from a mortal enemy but our worst enemies: sin, death, and the devil himself. May we rejoice every day in the freedom He gives us in Holy Baptism.

[If your health limits you, please don't feel required to stand during the worship service.]



*In the Name of the
Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit*



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

CHIMES CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

“Come, Thou Almighty King”



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
 2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
 might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy
 wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
 prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,
 might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
 maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
 And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Public domain

✠ SERVICE OF PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

based on John 3:16; 8:36; Romans 5:1

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L In the name of the Father,

C who loved us and sent His Son to set us free.

L In the name of His ✠ Son, Jesus,

C whose sacrifice gives us freedom and peace.

L In the name of the Holy Spirit,

C who brings us to faith and sustains our faith through the working of water and the Word. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 118:24, 26–27

- L** This is the day that the LORD has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
- C** We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- L** The LORD is God,
- C** and He has made His light to shine upon us.

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

- L** Almighty and eternal God, You have blessed us with a free land, having rights and privileges others dream about. We live in a land where liberty is given to us. With freedom also comes temptation to misuse our freedom.
- C** Forgive us, Lord, for misusing freedom in selfish ways. Keep us from squandering the precious opportunities You have given to us by the many freedoms we have.
- L** For these sins and all sins, sins of thought, word, and deed; by what we have done or failed to do,
- C** we stand before You now, asking Your forgiveness, and for the help of the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.
- L** Hear the Good News! God has heard your confession. He has called me, a called and ordained servant of our King, to deliver this message to you: your sins are forgiven because of the cross of Christ. Receive that forgiveness in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen! Thank You, Lord, for forgiving me. Help me, by the aid of Your Holy Spirit, to relish the freedoms You have given us as Christians and as a country.
- L** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 867

“Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds”



1 Let chil - dren hear the might - y deeds Which God per -
2 So make to them His glo - ries known, His works of
3 Our sons and daugh - ters we shall tell And they a -
4 O teach them with all dil - i - gence The truths of
5 To learn that in our God a - lone Their hope se -



formed of old, Which in our youn - ger
pow'r and grace; And we'll con - vey His
gain to theirs That gen - er - a - tions
God's own Word, To place in Him their
cure - ly stands, That they may nev - er



days we saw, And which our par - ents told.
won - ders down Through ev - 'ry ris - ing race.
yet un - born May teach them to their heirs.
con - fi - dence, To fear and trust their Lord,
doubt His love But walk in His com - mands.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray. Almighty and gracious God, You have given our country a precious gift—the gift of freedom. As we celebrate that gift from You today, help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to remember the greater gift of freedom in the cross and empty tomb of Jesus, who gives us freedom now and eternally, with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, one Lord, now and forever.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

EXODUS 12:10-28

(God saves Israel through the waters of the Red Sea.)

¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.” ¹⁵Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. ¹⁷And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. ¹⁸In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. ²⁰You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.” ²¹Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to

them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. ²²Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. ²³For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. ²⁴You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. ²⁵And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. ²⁶And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ ²⁷you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. ²⁸Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

- L** In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.
C **His abode has been established in Salem, His dwelling place in Zion.**
- L** There He broke the flashing arrows,
C **the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.**
- L** Glorious are You, more majestic than the mountains of prey.
C **The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil; they sank into sleep;**
L all the men of war were unable to use their hands.
C **At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider and horse lay stunned.**
- L** But You, You are to be feared!
C **Who can stand before You when once Your anger is roused?**
- L** From the heavens You uttered judgment;
C **the earth feared and was still, when God arose to establish judgment, to save all the humble of the earth.**
- L** Surely the wrath of man shall praise You;
C **the remnant of wrath You will put on like a belt.**
- L** Make your vows to the LORD your God and perform them;
C **let all around Him bring gifts to Him who is to be feared,**
L who cuts off the spirit of princes,
C **who is to be feared by the kings of the earth.**
- A** **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.**

EPISTLE

ROMANS 6:1-11

(In Holy Baptism, we are set free from sin, death, and the devil and given freedom in Christ.)

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

(please stand)

VERSE AND ALLELUIA

Galatians 5:1

L Alleluia. For freedom Christ has set us free;

C stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Alleluia.

(Tradition dictates that our eyes follow the cross. Please remain standing until the cross has been returned to its original position. The Gospel is read from the center of the church to symbolize the Gospel in our midst.)

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 8:31-36

(Only in Jesus do we find true freedom.)

L The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

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

¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

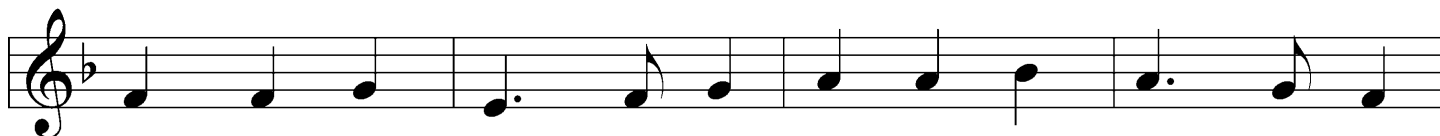
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB 965

“God Bless Our Native Land”



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch - ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

SERMON TITLE: ***“IF YOU DON’T KNOW YOU ARE FREE
HOW CAN YOU APPRECIATE IT”***

SERMON TEXT: ***JOHN 8:31-36***

(please stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

(please be seated)

WE OFFER OUR FIRST FRUITS

(Financial support of Grace Lutheran Church is considered a privilege of membership. Although all offerings are welcome, we do not expect them from our visitors.)

VOLUNTARY

ORGAN

“National Anthem”

(please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with,

L Lord, in Your mercy

C hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BENEDICTION

L The Lord bless us and keep us.

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

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

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN TO DEPART

LSB 832

“Jesus Shall Reign”



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es
leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -
cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Public domain

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2023 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

 *To God Alone Be the Glory* 
THOSE WHO SERVE

Presiding Elders Jim DeBerry/Steve DeShaw/Josh Jones
Organist..... Virginia DeBerry
Acolyte..... Alivia Schumacher
Elders Josh Jones
Ushers Brent Keese
..... Josh Jones
..... Tim Benton
..... Jim Raven
Altar Guild Margie Norton / Michelle Wolfmueller
Teller..... Mark Roush
Nursery Gwen McWhorter

GRACE PRAYS

We continue to pray for the following:

- Protection for our armed forces and strength for their families and Lt. Aaron Bell and his family.
- Wisdom for our nation’s leaders.
- Continued guidance and blessing for Ms. Carol.
- Strength and commitment in tending our baptismal journey.
- Our ECP.

ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS

- ❖ Mike Barbian, Charles Colgan, Jim Hill, Mary Ann Johnston, Royce Parsley, Melinda Richmond & Robert Stock.

ILL OR RECOVERING

- ❖ Mary Morgan continues with chemo treatments every two weeks. Most of the time she feels fine, and then there are other days. Doctors say the chemo will continue for some time.
- ❖ Parker (friend of RJ & Kinsey Pase) has been diagnosed with epilepsy.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

- ❖ Luke Pase was born to RJ & Kinsey Pase on 7/3. Both are doing well. Luke is getting some breathing treatments and more oxygen from the NICU. An ultrasound on his heart will also be done out of precaution.



The flowers this morning have been provided to the Glory of God by

Carol Massie

In thankfulness for my church family as we begin the process of calling the pastor that God has already chosen for us.

May we “Be still and listen to Him” as He leads us forward.

and

Thomas & Michelle Wolfmueller

In celebration of Michelle’s & Charlotte’s birthdays

Grace Lutheran Church – LCMS

3000 West Golf Course Road

Midland, Texas 79701-2998

Church Office – (432) 697-3221

ECP Office – (432) 694-3063

www.GraceLutheranMidland.org

office@gracelutheranmidlandtx.org

Our Ministry Staff

Carol Massie, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Life.....	638-4153
Ms. Amy Hoppman, Early Childhood Director	894-7027
Ms. Victoria J. Crawson, Church Office Administrator	626-484-9723
Lea Keesee, Parish Nurse.....	634-2580

Please see Grace in Action for the week’s calendar and other important information regarding the ministry of our congregation!