

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

“WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?”

AS WE GATHER

The Holy Gospel for today is about why the dietary laws never saved anyone and is a warning about what we think or say. The Old Testament Reading provides a warning against not passing on the teachings to the next generation. The Good News of the Gospel is most clearly found in the Epistle, which clearly tells us to rely on the armor God provides, not ourselves, so that we can stand up in this evil age. That we shall do in song and speech today, asking God’s help for the coming week.

TEACHING CONCERNING HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at Grace in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or the Elder on duty.

[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*



✠ SERVICE OF PREPARATION ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

CHIMES CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN

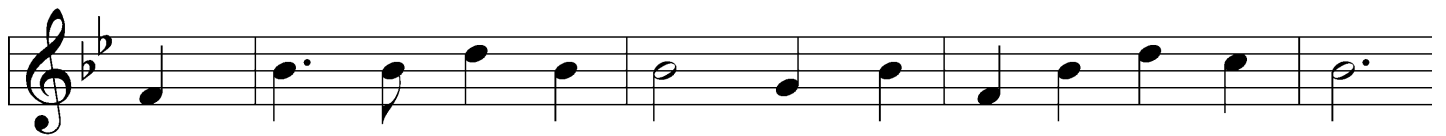
(please stand for last stanza)

LSB 660

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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, and 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.

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.

KYRIE

LSB 204



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

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 204

"Gloria in Excelsis."



- 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-9

(Do not forget all that God has done; teach your children.)

¹“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you... ⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? ⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children...

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM

PSALM 119:129-136; ANTIPHON: V. 132

- P** Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.
- P** Your testimonies are wonderful;
C **therefore my soul keeps them.**
- P** The unfolding of your words gives light;
C **it imparts understanding to the simple.**
- P** I open my mouth and pant,
C **because I long for your commandments.**
- P** Turn to me and be gracious to me,
C **as is your way with those who love your name.**
- P** Keep steady my steps according to your promise,
C **and let no iniquity get dominion over me.**
- P** Redeem me from man's oppression,
C **that I may keep your precepts.**
- P** Make your face shine upon your servant,
C **and teach me your statutes.**
- P** My eyes shed streams of tears,
C **because people do not keep your law.**
- 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.**
- P** Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.

EPISTLE

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

(please stand)

VERSE AND ALLELUIA

P Alleluia. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God Alleluia.
(Matthew 5:8)



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 7:14-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.

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

¹⁴And [Jesus] called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” ¹⁷And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(please be seated)

CHILDREN’S SERMON

EPHESIANS 6:12-18

“Whole Gospel Armor!”

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB 659

“Lord of Our Life”



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our
2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your
3 Lord, be our light when world - ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our
4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their
shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.
hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

Public domain

SERMON TEXT:

MARK 7:20-23

SERMON TITLE: *“DON'T FOLLOW YOUR HEART!”*

(please stand)

NICENE CREED

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.

(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

“Iste Confessor”

(please stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

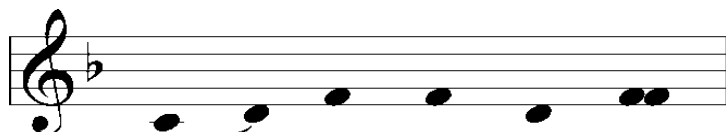
Each petition ends with,

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



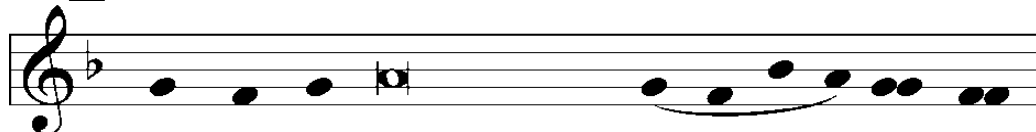
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

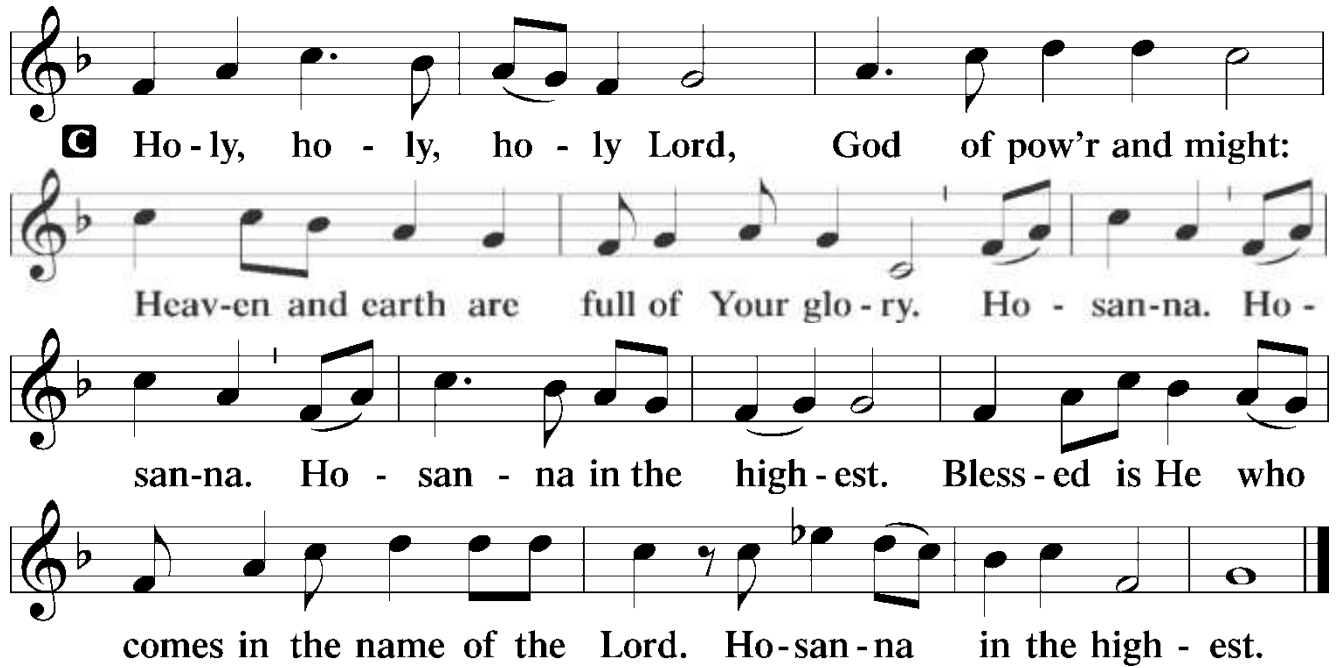


C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and sing:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

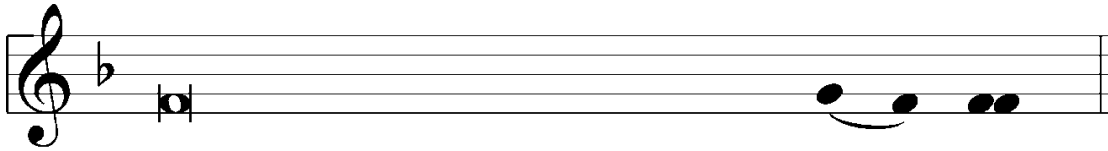
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

PAX DOMINI



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



C A - men.

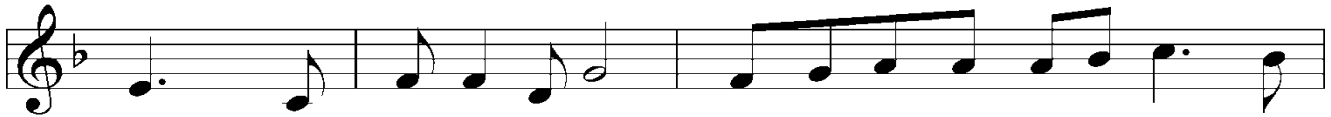
AGNUS DEI



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

(please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

LSB 627



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way God's
2 As His pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre - cious
3 Je - sus here Him - self is shar - ing; Heed then how you
4 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en To His own this



wrath for - ev - er; By His bit - ter grief and woe
food sup - ply - ing, Gives His bod - y with the bread,
are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,
food has giv - en, Who, to mend what we have done,



He saved us from the e - vil foe.
And with the wine the blood He shed.
His judg - ment then you shall re - ceive.
Gave in - to death His on - ly Son.

Text (st. 3): © 1980 and 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005190
Text (sts. 1-2, 4) and tune: Public domain

“Your Table I Approach”

LSB 628



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

**5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.**

**6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.**

Text and tune: Public domain

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

LSB 618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain

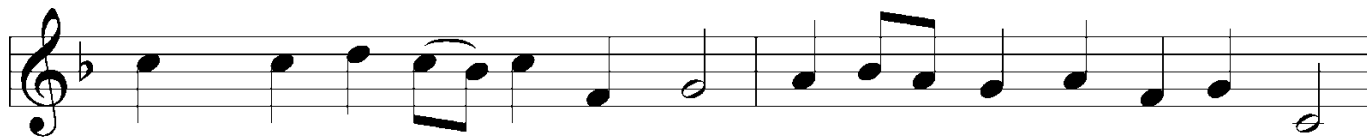


Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005190
Tune: Public domain

(Please Stand)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

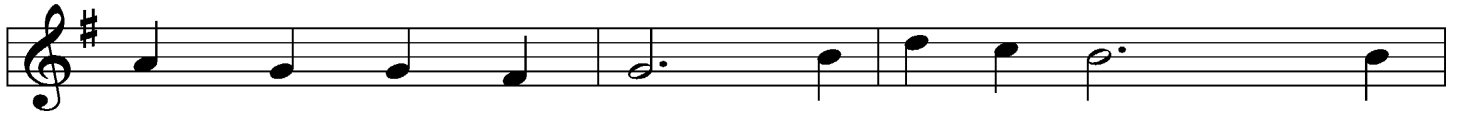
HYMN TO DEPART

LSB 854

“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go”



1 Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My dai - ly
2 The task Thy wis - dom has as - signed, O let me
3 Thee may I set at my right hand, Whose eyes my
4 Give me to bear Thine eas - y yoke, And ev - 'ry
5 For Thee de - light - ful - ly em - ploy What - e'er Thy



la - bor to pur - sue, Thee, on - ly Thee, re -
cheer - ful - ly ful - fill; In all my works Thy
in - most sub - stance see, And la - bor on at
mo - ment watch and pray, And still to things e -
boun - teous grace has giv'n, And run my course with



solved to know In all I think or speak or do.
pres - ence find, And prove Thy good and per - fect will.
Thy com - mand, And of - fer all my works to Thee.
ter - nal look, And has - ten to Thy glo - rious day.
e - ven joy, And close - ly walk with Thee to heav'n.

Text: Public domain
Tune: © 1981, 1982 Barry L. Bobb. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005190

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 © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

 *To God Alone Be the Glory* 
THOSE WHO SERVE

Presiding Minister Reverend Scott Blazek
 Organist..... Virginia DeBerry
 Acolyte..... Grace Elders
 Elders Pete Lufholm / Thomas Wolfmueller
 Ushers Mac Hall
 Jeremy Grabow
 Tim Benton
 Todd Byars
 Altar Guild Khristi Moritz / Kelli Jones
 Teller..... Jonathan McCann
 Nursery Juli McCann

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.
- Grace during our time of vacancy.
- 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, Melinda Richmond & David 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.
- ❖ Diane Richey (Carol Massie’s sister) is suffering from side effects of the chemo.
- ❖ Brian Traugher’s “deep brain stimulation” surgery on 8/27 at Baylor went very well. He will stay in the Dallas area for about 5 weeks for follow up.



The flowers this morning have been provided to the Glory of God by
Teresa Clingman-DeShaw
In thankfulness for the Lord's blessings

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
Mrs. Amy Hoppman, Early Childhood Director.....894-7027
Ms. Victoria J. Crawson, Church Office Administrator 626-484-9723
Lea Keese, Parish Nurse.....634-2580

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