



Grace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

3000 West Golf Course Road

Midland, Texas 79701-2998

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ECP Office (432) 694-3063

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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.

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

<p>Please see Grace in Action for the week's calendar and other Important information regarding the ministry of our congregation!</p>
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 **WORSHIP FOLDER** 

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 23, 2025

“THE LORD OF SECOND CHANCES”

AS WE GATHER

Jesus used many parables – daily life stories with spiritual meaning – to teach people about the kingdom of God. In today’s parable, He speaks of a tree that got a second chance because the gardener appealed to his master not to remove the unfruitful tree until he had time to reinvigorate it. As God looks down upon our lives, what he often finds is a lack of the fruit He expects from us – like the tree in the parable. While in His holiness, He is justified in saying, “Cut it down,” in His grace, He listens to the Savior’s plea to give Him more time – another chance to produce fruit. We are grateful for *the Lord of second chances!*

[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

WELCOME

✠ SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING ✠

ENTRANCE HYMN

(please stand for last stanza)

LSB 696

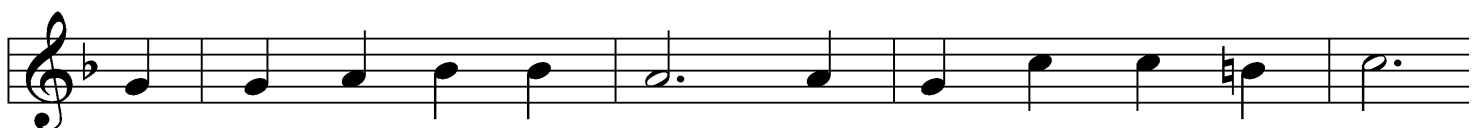
“O God, My Faithful God”



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

**5 Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.**

**6 And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your
name.**

Text and tune: Public domain

OPENING VERSICLES

L This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

L Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

L Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

C let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

L Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

C He was bruised for our iniquities.

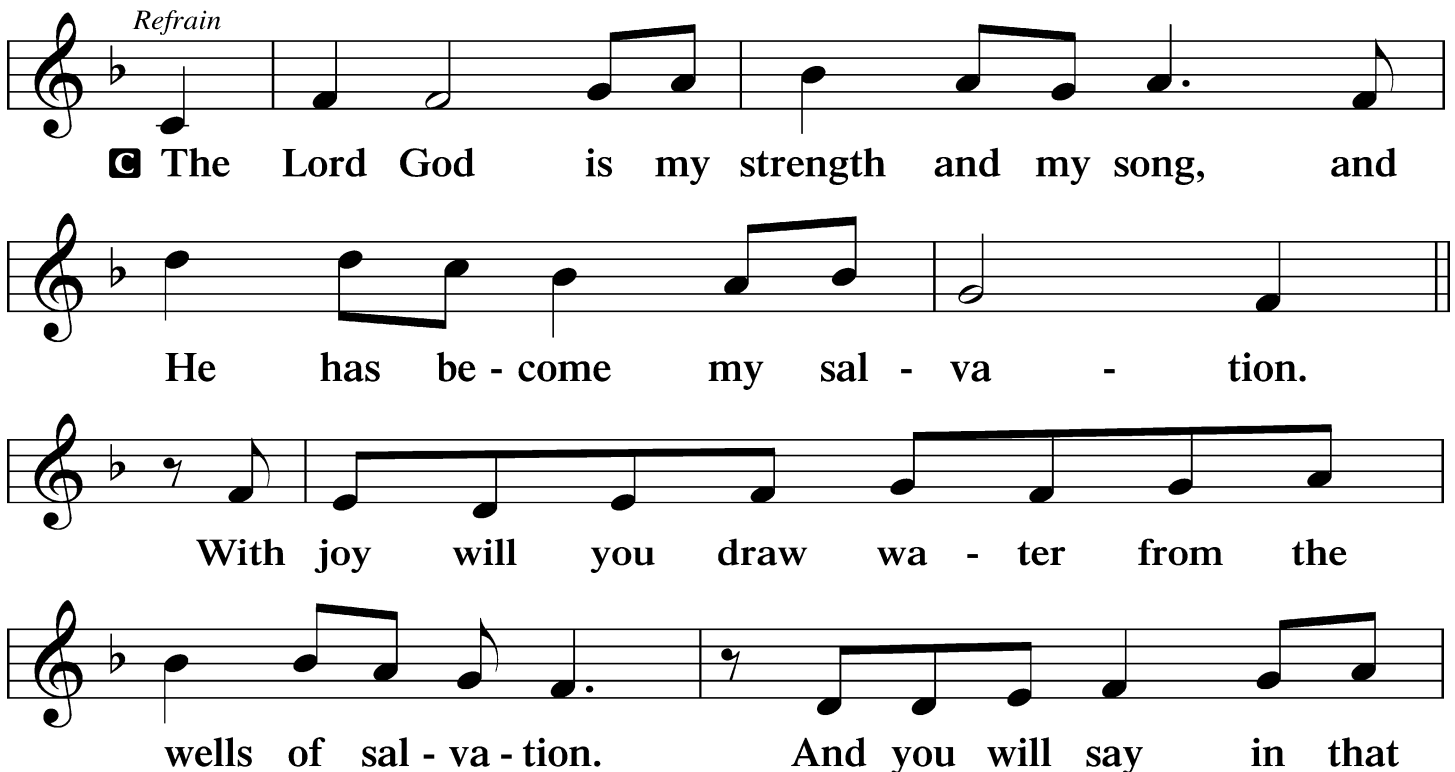
L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C 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.

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

Refrain



C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."



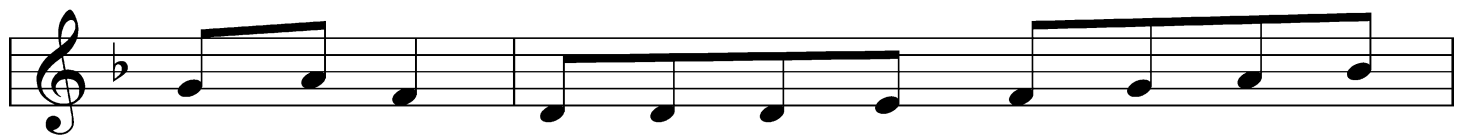
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the



earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -



hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the



Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.



Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



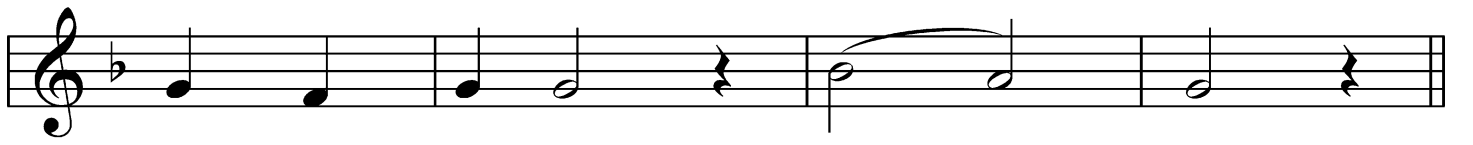
Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son



and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will

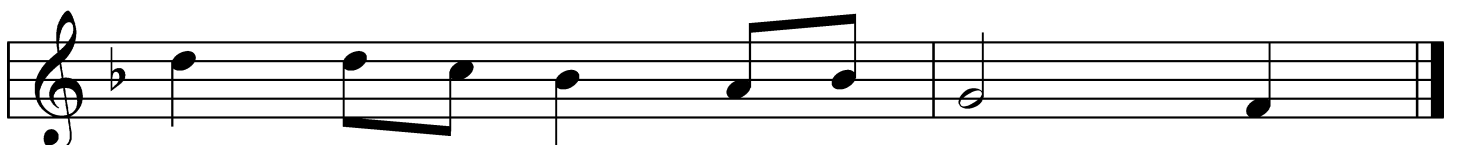


be for - ev - er. A - men.



Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

(please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

EZEKIEL 33:7-20

(Ezekiel is Israel's watchman.)

- L** The Old Testament Reading for the third Sunday in Lent is from Ezekiel, chapter 33:
- L** ⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. ¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? ¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. ¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

(Warning against idolatry.)

L The Epistle reading for today is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 10:

L ¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

RESPONSORY

L We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

L Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

L We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

CATECHISM

TEN COMMANDMENTS

- ☐** You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

(please stand)

(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.)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 13:1-9

(Repent or perish.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter thirteen.

C Glory be to you, O Lord.

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” ⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON TEXT: *LUKE 13:1-9*

SERMON TITLE: *“THE LORD OF SECOND CHANCES”*

(please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB 716

“I Walk in Danger All the Way”



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way. The thought shall nev - er
2 I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin and ills con -
3 And death pur - sues me all the way, No - where I rest se -
4 I walk with an - gels all the way, They shield me and be -



leave me That Sa - tan, who has marked his prey, Is
tend - ing; In pa - tience I must bear each day The
cure - ly; He comes by night, he comes by day, He
friend me; All Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay When



plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den snares
cross of God's own send - ing. When in ad - ver - si - ty
takes his prey most sure - ly. A fail - ing breath, and I
heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me; They are my sure de - fense,



May seize me un - a - wares If I should fail to
I know not where to flee, When storms of woe my
In death's strong grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni -
All fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do



watch and pray. I walk in dan - ger all the way.
soul dis - may, I pass through tri - als all the way.
ty to - day As death pur - sues me all the way.
what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.

**5 I walk with Jesus all the way,
His guidance never fails me;
Within His wounds I find a stay
When Satan's pow'r assails me;
And by His footsteps led,
My path I safely tread.
No evil leads my soul astray;
I walk with Jesus all the way.**

**6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;
Await, my soul, the morrow,
When God's good healing shall allay
All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.
Then, worldly pomp, begone!
To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay;
My walk is heav'nward all the way.**

Text and tune: Public domain

(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

“Der Lieben Sonne Licht und Pracht”

(please stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all those on Grace Prays and those we hold in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

(please be seated)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray: Good and gracious God, holy and just, loving and merciful, we give You thanks and praise that in Jesus, You give second chances to undeserving sinners. Give to us the wisdom to acknowledge our wrongdoing, confess our sin, and receive Your holy absolution, that we may not unfruitful

trees fit only to be dug up according to Your Law; hear us as we pray all things through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit, are the one, true God, now and forever and ever.

C Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of our holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

MORNING PRAYER

P I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

C Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

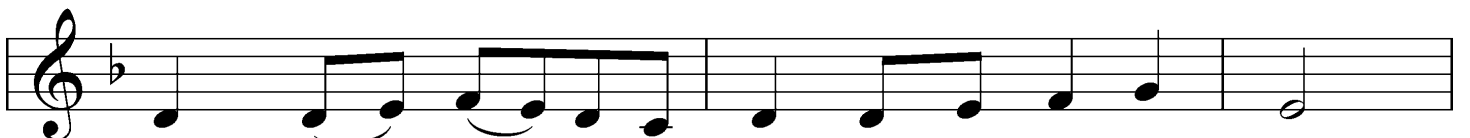
Refrain



C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.



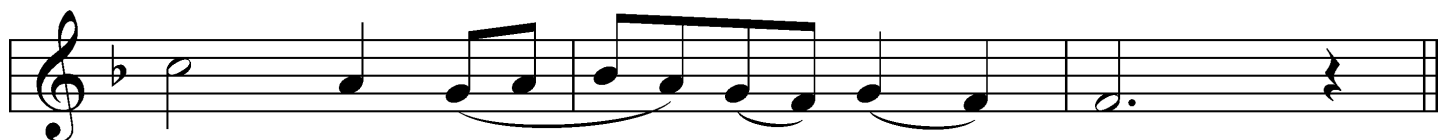
Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



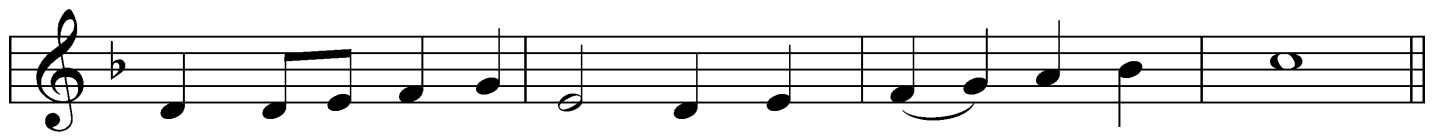
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He



lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to



sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord,

C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve you.

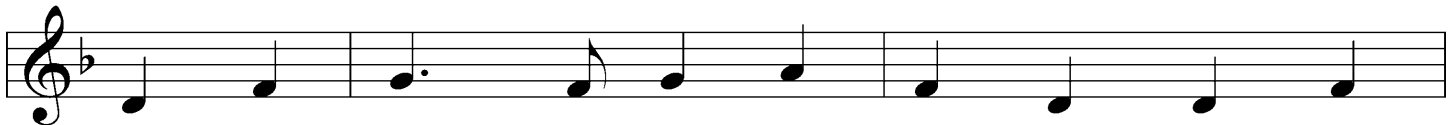
C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN TO DEPART

LSB 511

“Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment”



1 Her - ald, sound the note of judg - ment, Warn - ing
2 Her - ald, sound the note of glad - ness; Tell the
3 Her - ald, sound the note of par - don— Those re -
4 Her - ald, sound the note of tri - umph; Christ has



us of right and wrong, Turn - ing us from sin and
news that Christ is here; Make a path - way through the
pent - ing are for - giv'n; God re - ceives His way - ward
come to share our life, Bring - ing God's own love and



sad - ness Till once more we sing the song.
des - ert For the one who brings God near.
chil - dren, And to them new life is giv'n.
pow - er, Grant - ing vic - t'ry in our strife.

Refrain



Sound the trum-pet! Tell the mes-sage: Christ, the Sav-ior king, is come!

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

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 *To God Alone Be the Glory* 
THOSE WHO SERVE

Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey
Reader Todd Byars
Acolyte..... Jacob Jones
Organist..... Virginia DeBerry
Elders Steve DeShaw / Dennis Wehmeyer
Ushers Brent Keese
..... Mark Roush
..... Jim Raven
..... Tim Benton
Altar Guild..... Cindy Hilton / Carol Massie
Teller..... Hope Molina
Nursery Attendant Jess & Harper Diaz

GRACE PRAYS

We continue to pray for the following:

- For our congregation as we make our way through this time of transition, that God would bless and guide us as we discover and affirm the mission and ministry of our congregation.
- For our Early Childhood Program (ECP) and the lives of the children and their families that are impacted as we share Jesus with them.
- For our community, that we see our neighbors with eyes of love and compassion, remembering that for each and every one of us, Jesus willing died on the cross to make us all children of the heavenly Father.
- During this season of Lent, we pray God to give us a spirit of repentance and the reassurance of the hope of our salvation through Jesus.

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

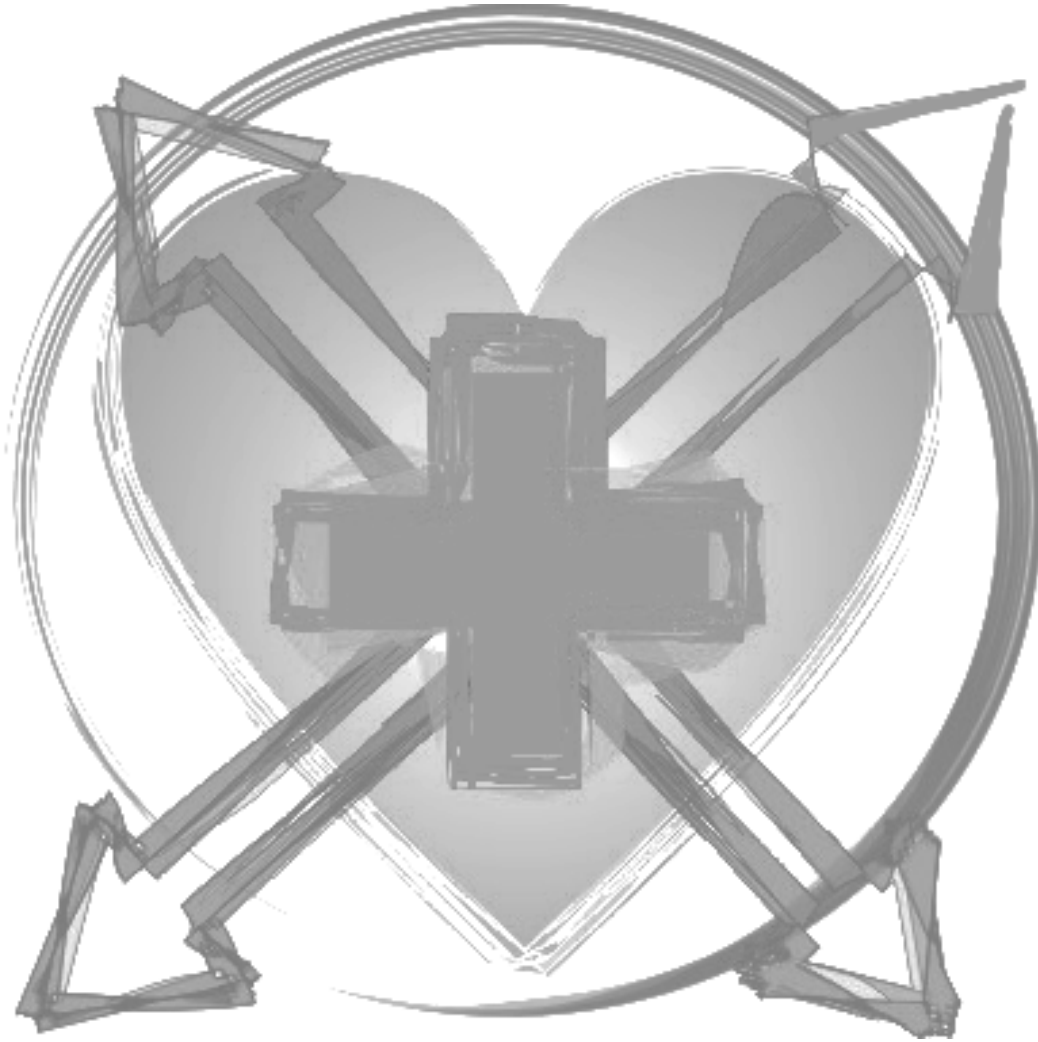
- ❖ Mike Barbian, Jo Burris, Charles Colgan, Jerry Damm, Eleanor Dillenburger, Mary Ann Johnston, Marilyn Richmond, Bernice Weinkauff, and their caregivers.

ILL OR RECOVERING

- ✠ Linda (Rhonda Shutts' sister) who is battling cancer; and Marvin (Rhonda's brother) who is dealing with heart failure.
- ✠ Kristen Reik Haynes (Margaret Cloyd's granddaughter is still receiving chemo treatments.
- ✠ Mary Morgan, who is undergoing a new chemotherapy.
- ✠ Diane Richey (Carol Massie's sister) who is under hospice care at home.
- ✠ Brian Traughber's surgery was successful, and he is home resting.
- ✠ Kathy Cox (Gwen McWhorter's mother) is recovering at home..
- ✠ Peter Lufholm, undergoing therapy after successful hip surgery.
- ✠ Bill Hartzoge, undergoing heart surgery this week in Dallas.

PRAYERS OF MOURNING

- ✠ Teresa Green (Nikki Loya's mother) died on 3/16 in the early morning hours.



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Our Ministry Staff

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.....pastor@gracelutheranmidlandtx.org
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