

Grace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

3000 West Golf Course Road

Midland, Texas 79701-2998

Church (432) 697-3221

ECP Office (432) 694-3063

www.gracelutheranmidlandtx.org office@gracelutheranmidlandtx.org **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 whosever 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.



"THE ESSENTIALS NEEDED FOR GOD TO WORK"

AS WE GATHER

Though it is a few weeks before Pentecost Sunday, we look at Acts 2 and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the small band of believers, empowering them to be witnesses to the truth of the Gospel. We see the flames of the Holy Spirit. We hear the words of the inspired apostle. We rejoice in the presence of those who, by faith, are committed to Jesus. Through these means, we pray for God's leading that we, too, may speak of His love to those within our "spheres of influence" – our friends, co-workers, neighbors, and even our family members!



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



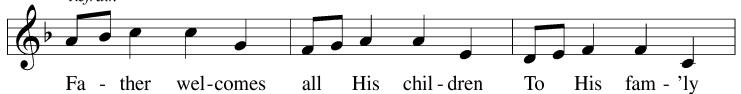
→ SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING **→**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

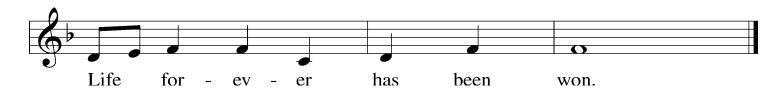
WELCOME





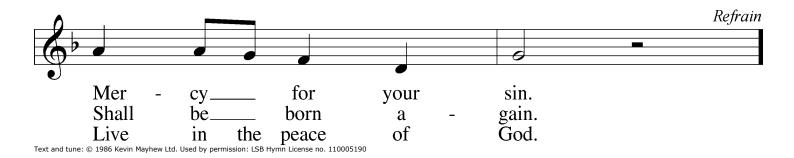






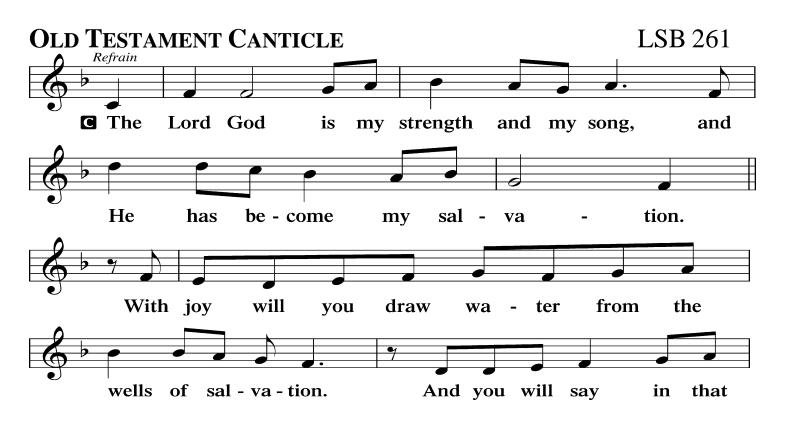






OPENING VERSICLES

- **P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- **C** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- **C** Teach me Your paths.
- **P** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- **C** Your Word is truth.
- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- 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.







(please be seated)

FIRST READING

ACTS 2:1-41

(The coming of the Spirit upon the believers.)

- **L** The First Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is from Acts, chapter 2.
- L ¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And

suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

²²"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless

men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.'

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

I This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE

REVELATION 7:9-17

(The Lamb who sits on the throne shall be their Shepherd.)

- The Epistle for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is from Revelation, chapter 7.
- I

 9After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

16They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

17For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

(please stand)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 10:22-30

(No one can snatch the sheep out of the Shepherd's hand.)

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If

you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

- **P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

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.

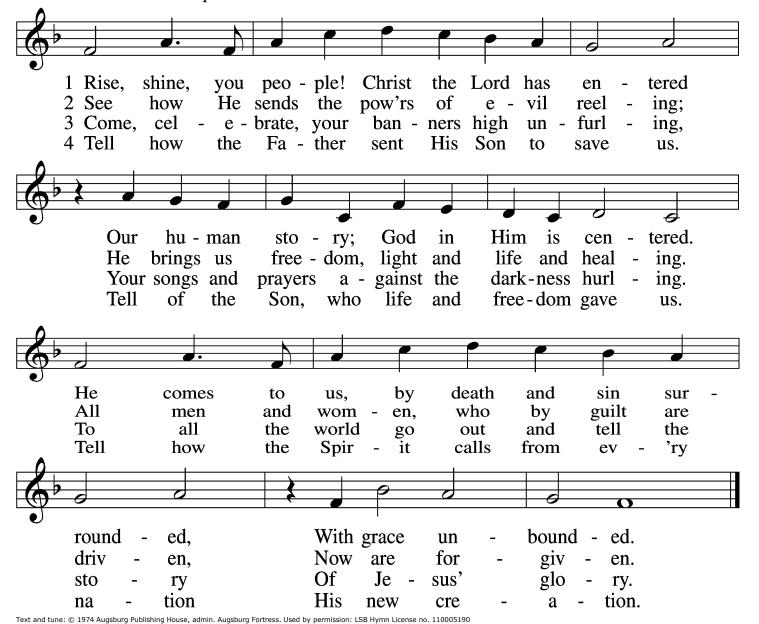
LORD'S PRAYER

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 be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Rise, Shine, You People"



SERMON TITLE:

"BE THE CHURCH!

THE ESSENTIALS FOR GOD TO WORK"

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

JOYFUL CHORUS

"And Christ Shall Be Our Peace"

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** 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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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 Your 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

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. Amen.





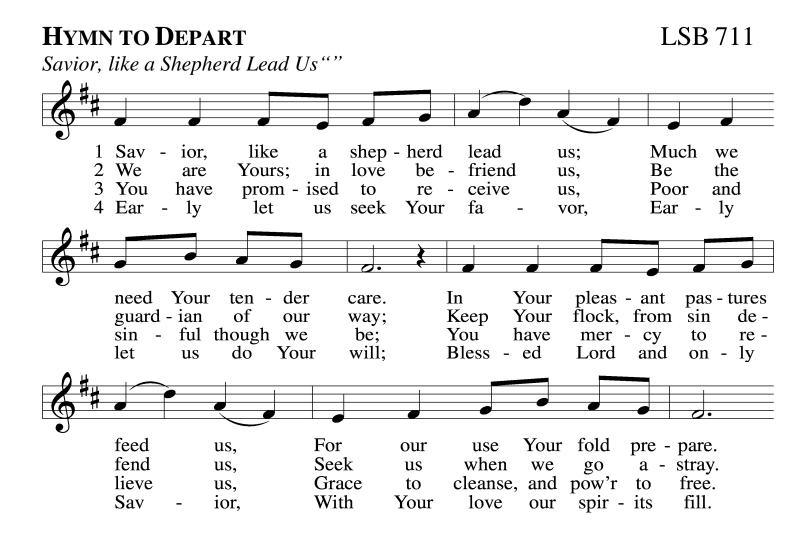


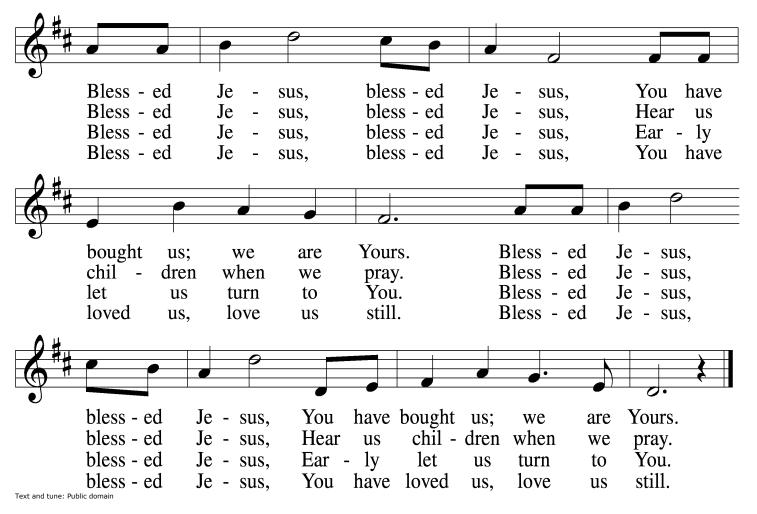
BLESSING

- **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.

(please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS





POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

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| Interim Pastor | Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey |
|------------------------|--|
| Reader | Stacy Baker |
| Acolyte | Jenna Powell |
| Organist | Virginia DeBerry |
| Joyful Chorus Director | Cindy Hilton |
| Elders | |
| Ushers | Mac Hall, Todd Byars, Jim Raven, Dennis Wehmeyer |
| Altar Guild | Pat Lufholm / Khristi Moritz |
| Teller | ? |
| Nursery Attendant | Gwen McWhorter |

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.
- That we celebrate that we are resurrection people granted new life, both here in time and there in eternity, with our Lord Jesus Christ.

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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

ILL AND RECOVERING

- † Matt, Gary Parsley's nephew is in ICU being treated for sepsis.
- ♣ Mary Morgan's latest scan shows new or changed spots on her liver & lungs. She will start a new chemo treatment soon.
- † Chuck, Khristi Moritz's father-in-law was hospitalized. Awaiting diagnosis.
- **♥** Bill Hartzoge is scheduled for valve replacement surgery on 5/14 at Baylor-Scott in Plano.



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

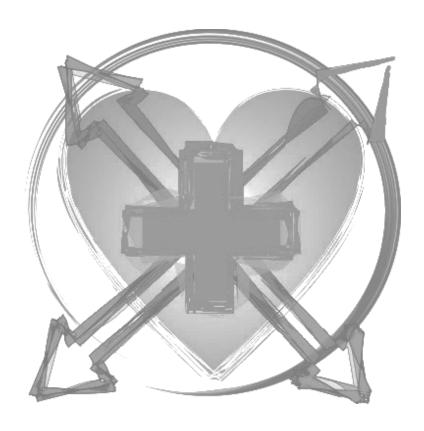
Fred & Margie Norton

In memory of our mothers, Jewell Dell Norton and Jerry Penick on this Mother's Day

and

Jim Raven

In remembrance of my mother, Lorna on Mother's Day



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Our Ministry Staff

| Reverend Dr. Mike Ramey, Interim Pastor | |
|---|----------|
| • | |
| 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 | |

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