

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

## VISITORS

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We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are with us.

## OUR WORSHIP

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Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. We respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

## PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

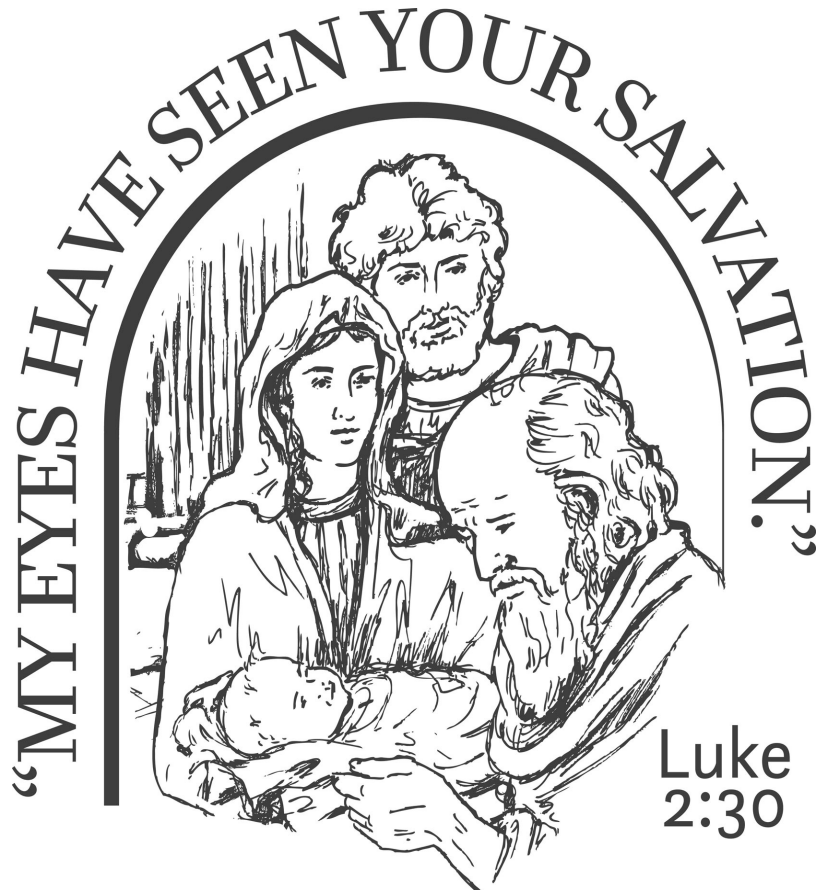
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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

## PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

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*We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen*



## THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD CANDLEMAS

February 2, 2025 | 8:00 and 10:30am

## ORDER FOR WORSHIP - BLUE BOOK SETTING 5

*Watchword: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law. – Galatians 4:4 ESV*

### PRELUDE | WELCOME | OPENING PRAYER

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## Confession and Absolution

### INVOCATION

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*The people stand.*

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### CONFESSION

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P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ABSOLUTION

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*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: Almighty God has mercy on you, forgives you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*



## Gathering

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*We Are Marching in the Light of God* Blue Book 650

*Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center isle at this time.*

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE

C=all voices; I=female voices; II=male voices

**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**I** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we  
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.


**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**III** Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**I** For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
**II** you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,  
 and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.      **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have sent us your salvation. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to see with our own eyes him who is the glory of Israel and the light for all nations, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.      **C: Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

*Malachi 3:1-4*

L: A reading from Malachi.

*The Lord whom many seek is found. The Lord himself comes to the temple.*

<sup>1</sup>Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says

the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The Word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALMODY

*Psalm 84*

*The verses chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.*



<sup>1</sup>How dear to me is your dwelling, O | Lord of hosts!\* My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.

<sup>2</sup>**The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may | lay her young,\* by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King | and my God.**

<sup>3</sup>Happy are they who dwell | in your house!\* They will always be | praising you.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,\* whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a | place of springs,\* for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.

<sup>6</sup>**They will climb from | height to height,\* and the God of gods will reveal him- | self in Zion.**

<sup>7</sup>Lord God of hosts, | hear my prayer;\* hearken, O | God of Jacob.

<sup>8</sup>**Behold our defend- | er, O God;\* and look upon the face of | your anointed.**

<sup>9</sup>For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in | my own room,\*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in  
the tents | of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**For the Lord God is both | sun and shield;\* he will give | grace and glory;**

<sup>11</sup>no good thing will the | Lord withhold\* from those who walk | with integrity.

<sup>12</sup>**O | Lord of hosts,\* happy are they who put their | trust in you!**

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Hebrews 2:14-18*

L: A reading from Hebrews.

*Christ, our high priest, identifies with us completely.*

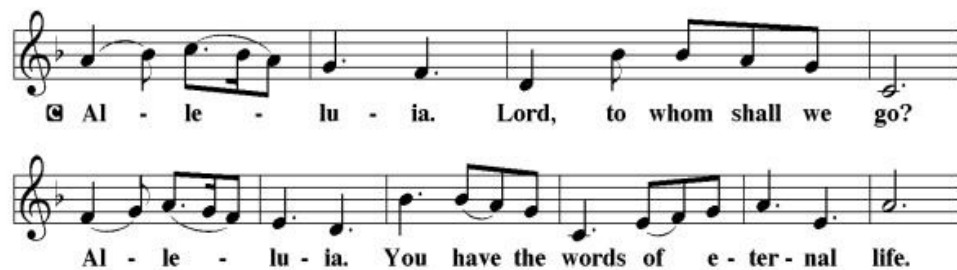
<sup>14</sup>Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup>For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE VERSE

*The people please stand.*



## THE GOSPEL

*Luke 2:22-40*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

P: <sup>22</sup>And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." <sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for

the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

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## SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

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## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Day By Day*

Blue Book 746

*The people stand.*

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## RITE OF CANDLE BLESSING

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, Forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Today is the blessed day when our Lord Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation. We also, led by the same Spirit, recognize Jesus as Lord and Light of the World.

Let us pray. O God, source and giver of all light, on this day you showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles. You are the source and giver of all light, spreading it far and wide. Pour, we pray, into the hearts of your faithful people and all the people of the world the brilliance of your perpetual light. May all who are brightened in this place by the splendor of these candles happily reach the light of your everlasting glory, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*After each petition: A: Hear us, O God; C: your mercy is great.*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



## *The Liturgy of Holy Communion*

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## THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.*

## OFFERING

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*Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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*The people stand.*



☩ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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A: Let us pray. Merciful God,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also 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.**

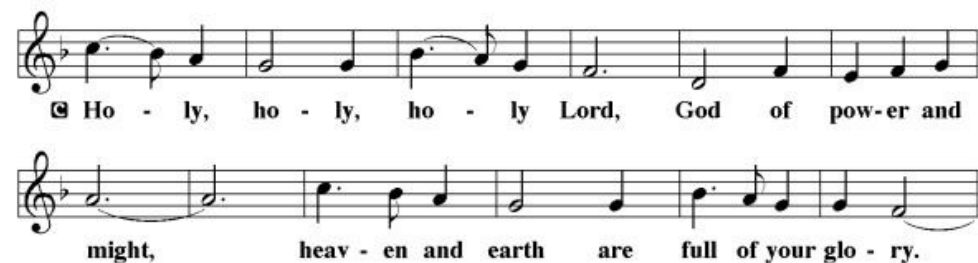
## THE PREFACE

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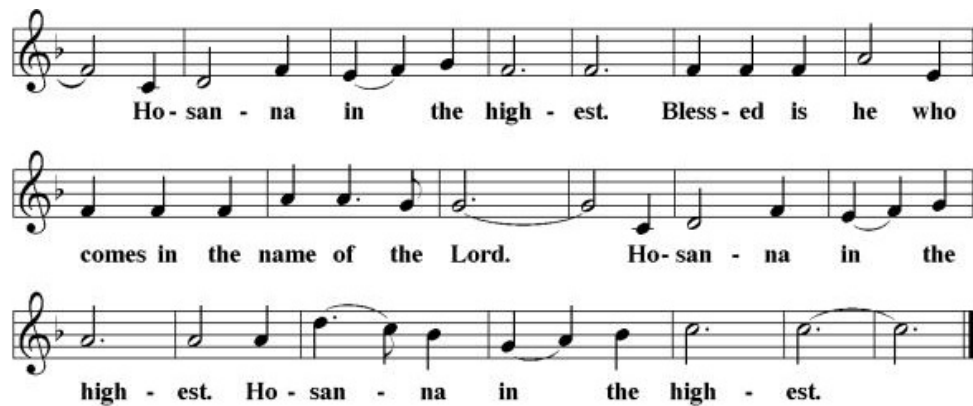
P: It is indeed right .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS

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☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

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

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

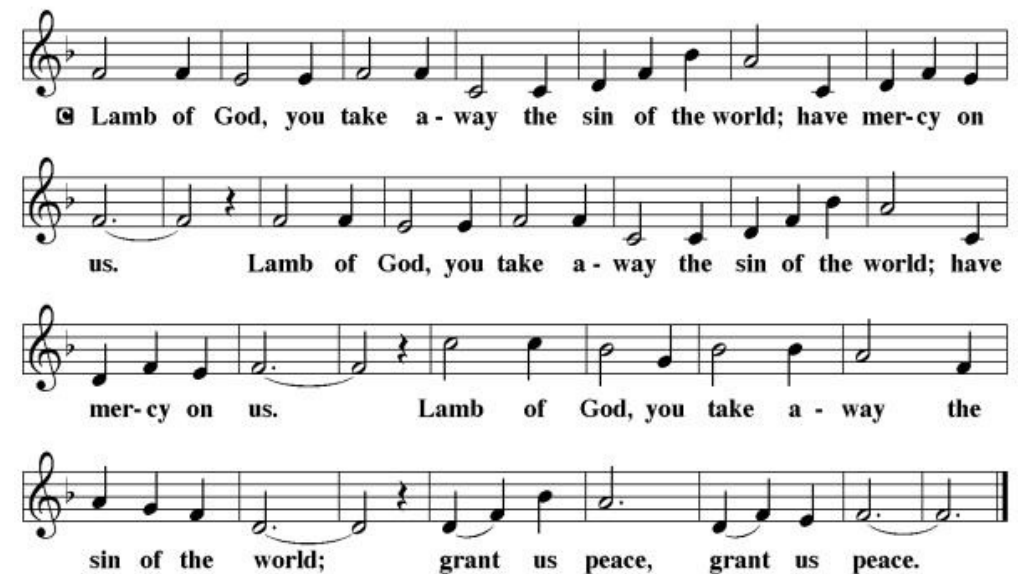
## THE FRACTION

P: God brings forth wine to gladden us.

**C: and bread to strengthen the human heart.**

## LAMB OF GOD

*The people may be seated.*



☩ 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, grant us peace.



## DISTRIBUTION

Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

Hymns during distribution: Green Book 214, *This Little Light of Mine* (as printed)

- 1 *This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*
- 2 *Don't you try to blow it out, I'm going to let it shine;  
Don't you try to blow it out, I'm going to let it shine;  
Don't you try to blow it out, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*
- 3 *Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine;  
Hide it under a bushel? No!, I'm going to let it shine;  
Hide it under a bushel? No!, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*
- 4 *All around the neighborhood, I'm going to let it shine;  
All around the neighborhood, I'm going to let it shine;  
All around the neighborhood, I'm going to let it shine; let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*The people please stand.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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A: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



*Sending*

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## SENDING HYMN

*Lord Dismiss Us*

Green Book 259

## THE POSTLUDE

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*We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.*

## PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

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*Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen*

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

65 E. Columbus St.

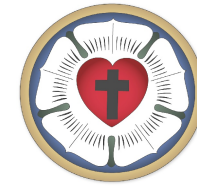
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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

## COMMEMORATIONS:

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As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

Feb. 2 THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

Feb. 3 Ansgar, Archbishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865

Feb. 5 The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 5 EPIPHANY (FEB. 9)

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Isaiah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Psalms 138

Luke 5:1-11