

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
February 19, 2023 | 8:00 and 10:30am

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Thornville, Ohio

VISITORS

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

Lutherans believe that the Gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners by his death and resurrection, but also the power by which God creates and strengthens faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the Gospel as the central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In preaching and Holy Communion, in specially selected Bible readings and songs, prayers and confessions, the liturgy points us to Jesus as our gracious Savior.

PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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

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

ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW SETTING 1

Watchword: Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. - Psalm 66:5 ESV

PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER



Confession and Absolution

INVOCATION

The people stand.

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The people stand.



Gathering

ENTRANCE HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

LBW 315

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

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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 In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

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

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **II** Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

☩ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 ☩ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al-so with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, on the mountain you showed your glory in the transfiguration of your Son. Give us the vision to see beyond the turmoil of our world and to behold the king in all his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The people may be seated.



The Liturgy of the Word

THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 24:12-18

L: A reading from Exodus.

In this reading, God not only appears to the people of Israel, but one of them, Moses, walks into the presence of God.

¹²The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.” ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

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

PSALMODY

Psalms 2

The verses chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.

¹Why are the nations | in an uproar? * Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?
²Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes | plot
 together, * against the Lord and against | his anointed?

³“Let us break their | yoke,” they say;* “let us cast off their | bonds from us.”
⁴**He whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;* the Lord has them | in derision.**

⁵Then he speaks to them | in his wrath,* and his rage fills | them with terror.

⁶**“I myself have | set my king* upon my holy | hill of Zion.”**

⁷Let me announce the decree | of the Lord:* He said to me, “You are my son;
this day have I be- | gotten you.

⁸**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance* and the
ends of the earth for | your possession.**

⁹You shall crush them with an | iron rod* and shatter them like a | piece of pottery.”

¹⁰**And now, you | kings, be wise;* be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**

¹¹Submit to the | Lord with fear,* and with trembling | bow before him;

¹²**lest he be angry, | and you perish;* for his wrath is | quickly kindled.**

¹³Happy | are they all* who take ref- | uge in him!

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 1:16-21

L: A reading from 2 Peter.

The Apostle Peter was an eyewitness of Jesus' glory on the mountain of the transfiguration. He tells his story, but reminds the people that God has also revealed Himself in the message of the Scriptures.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay

attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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

THE VERSE

The people please stand.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 17th chapter.



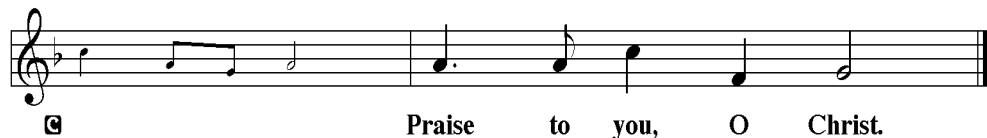
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud

overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.”⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

The people may be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY *I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light* Blue Book 649

The people stand.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was

made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

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

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.

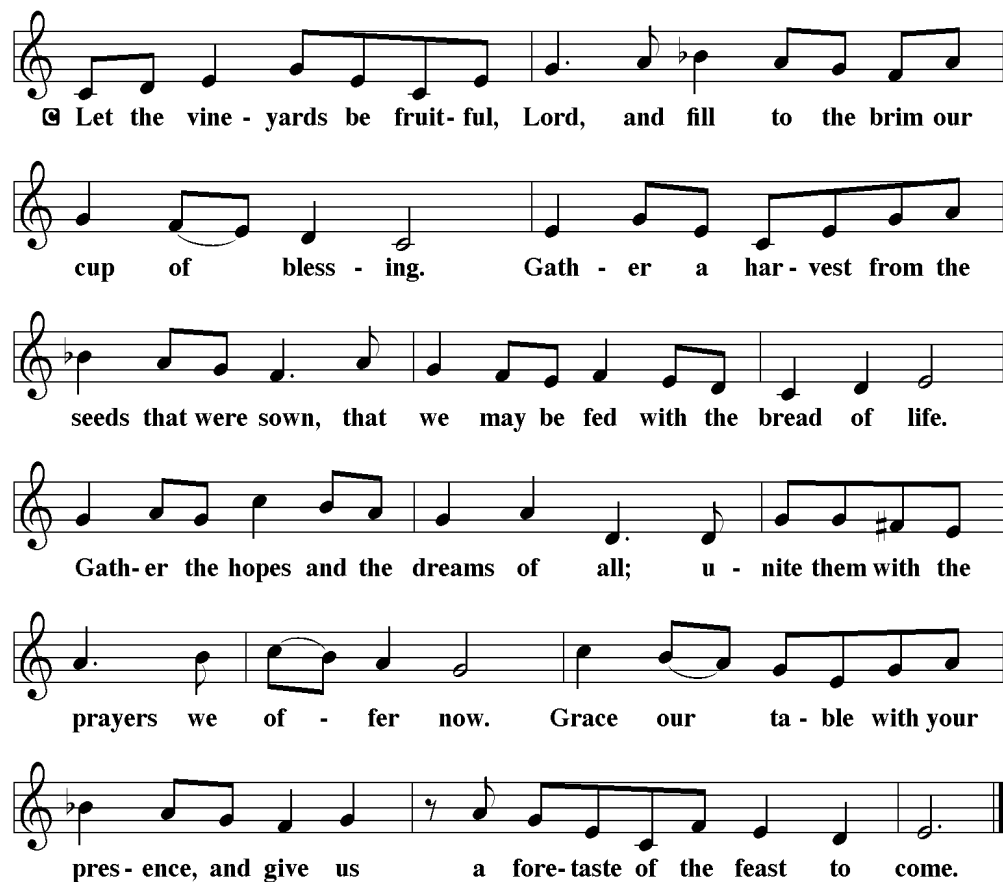
OFFERING

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. Quiet music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.

GraceNotes Handbells (10:30 only): "Amazing Grace"

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

The people stand.



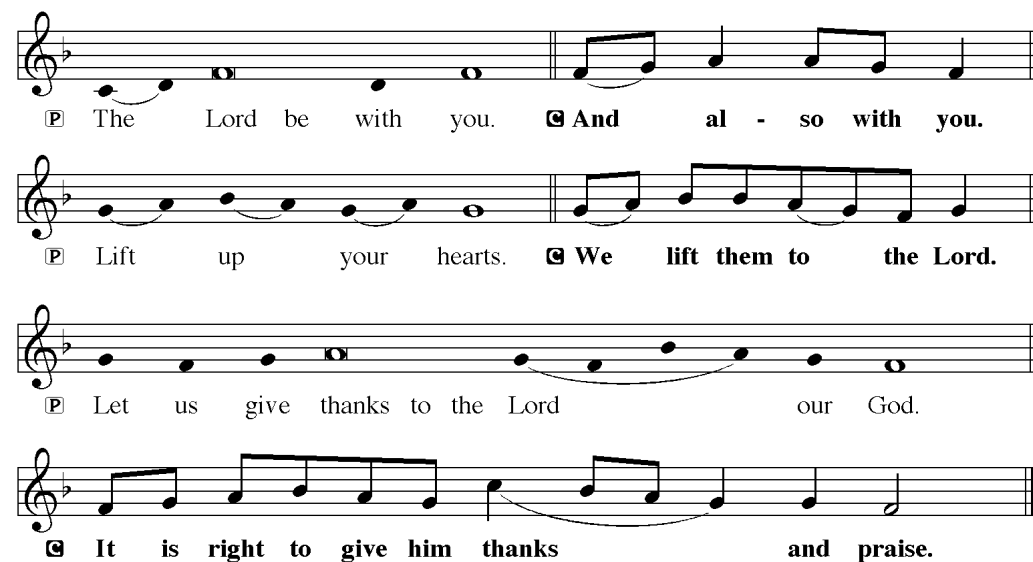
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

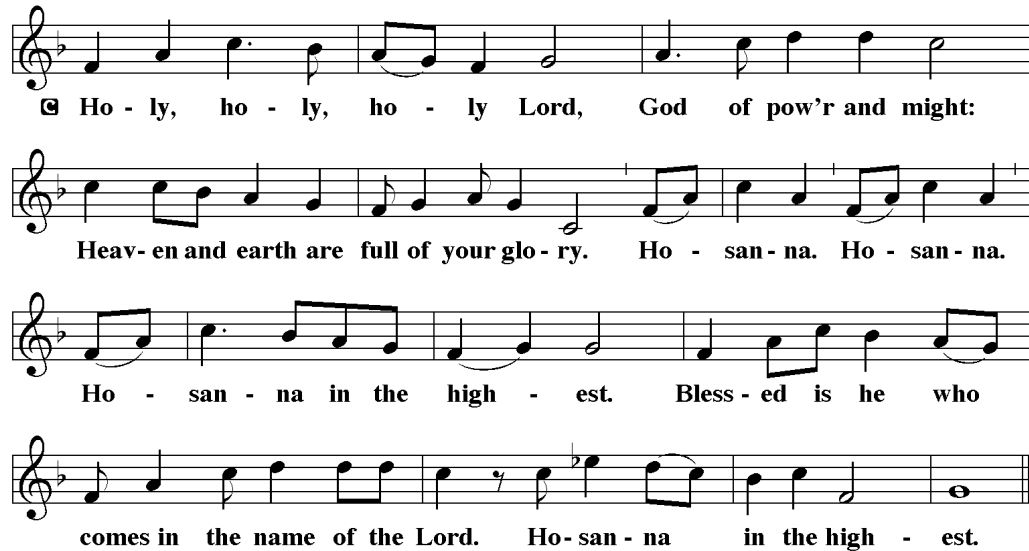


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

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

THE SANCTUS



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.

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.

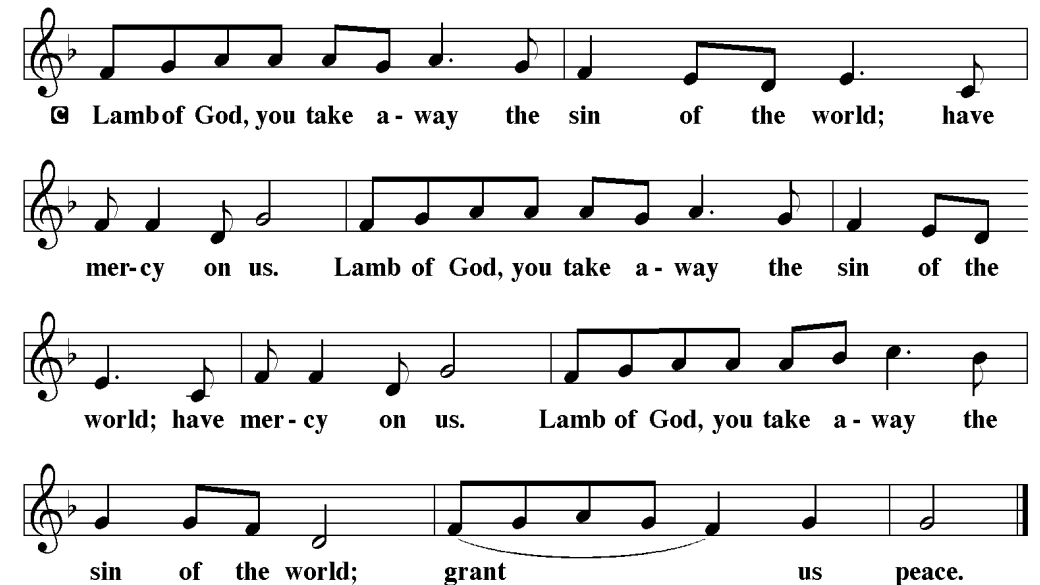
THE FRACTION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: **Happy are those who take refuge in him!**

The people may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

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.

One side of the congregation will receive communion at a time, with ushers dismissing one pew at a time to maintain appropriate distance between those communing. Those coming forward to receive are asked to cup their hands so that the bread may be dropped into their hands. After you have received the bread, an usher will provide each person with an individual cup that will then be filled with wine by the assisting minister. Only individual cups with grape juice will be filled beforehand. Coming forward to receive only the bread is perfectly acceptable. Those choosing not to receive communion can come forward for a blessing signaled by having your arms crossed over your chest. When you have communed, you may return to your seat by way of the side aisle.

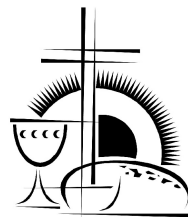
Hymns during distribution: LBW 518, 526, 524

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 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 PRAYER

A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



Sending

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL



☞ 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.

☞ A - men

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

How Good, Lord to Be Here!

LBW 89

THE POSTLUDE

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

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

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

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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



COMMEMORATIONS:

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. 20 Rasmus Jensen, the first Lutheran pastor in North America, 1620

Feb. 23 Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156

Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, missionary to India, 1719

Feb. 24 ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

Feb. 25 Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 1 LENT (February 26)

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Psalms 32

Matthew 4:1-11