

**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're glad you are here.

**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. In turn, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

**PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

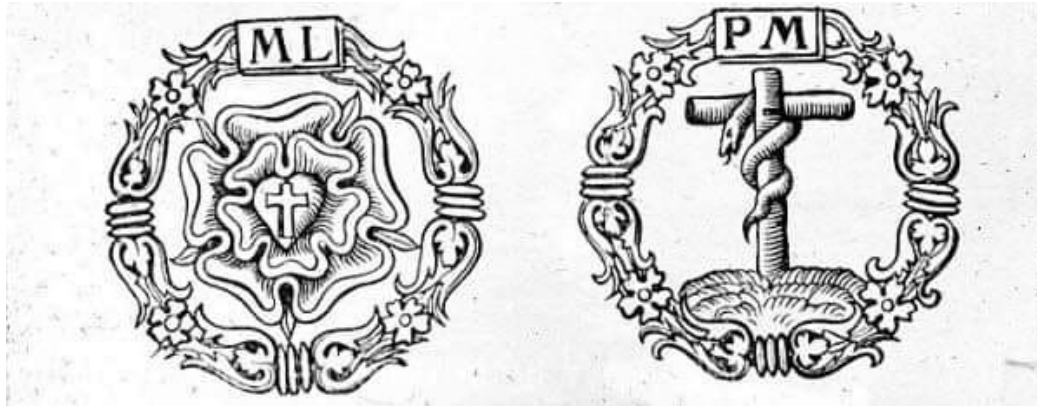
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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so,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

March 10, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW SETTING 1

*Watchword: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. – Ephesians 2:8 ESV*

## PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER

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### Confession and Absolution

#### INVOCATION

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*The people please 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: 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

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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

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*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given us his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God and bestows on them his Holy Spirit. All who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*



### Gathering

#### ENTRANCE HYMN

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Green Book 385

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#### 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.

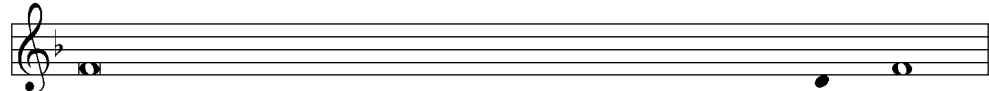
**C: And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices



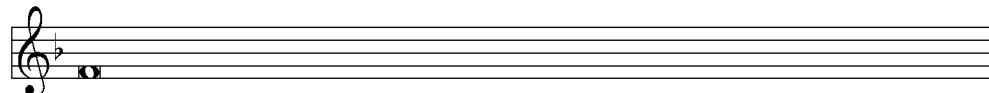
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



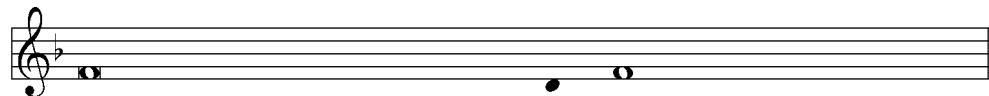
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



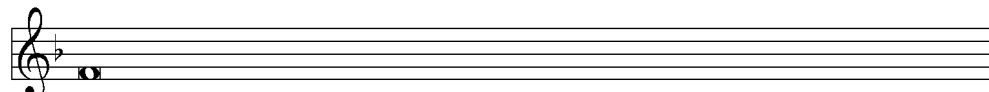
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



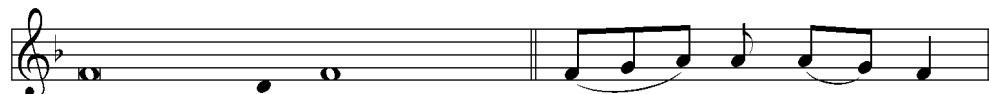
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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

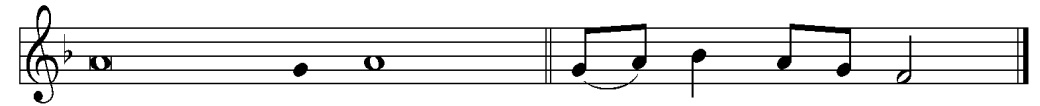


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



**C** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**P:** Let us pray. God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; 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

*Numbers 21:4-9*

**L:** A reading from Numbers.

*By means of a fiery serpent on a pole, God saves a complaining Israel in the wilderness.*

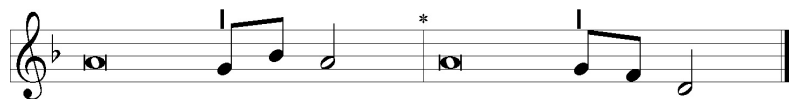
<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." <sup>6</sup>Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

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

**PSALMODY**

*Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22*

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



<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for | he is good,\* and his mercy en- | dures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let all those whom the Lord has re- | deemed proclaim\*  
 that he redeemed them from the hand | of the foe.**

<sup>3</sup>He gathered them out | of the lands;\* from the east and from the west,  
 from the north and | from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took to re- | bellious ways;\* they were afflicted  
 because | of their sins.**

<sup>18</sup>They abhorred all man- | ner of food\* and drew near | to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then they cried to the Lord | in their trouble,\* and he delivered them  
 from | their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>He sent forth his | word and healed them\* and saved them | from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to the Lord | for his mercy\* and the wonders  
 he does | for his children.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer a sacrifice | of thanksgiving\* and tell of his acts with | shouts  
 of joy.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

L: A reading from Ephesians.

*God demonstrates great love to people who are dead in trespass and sins. By grace we have been saved.*

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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

**THE VERSE**

The people please stand.

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
 stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## THE GOSPEL

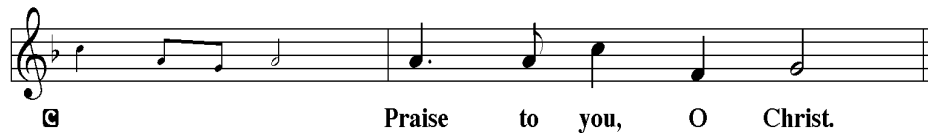
John 3:14-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.



P: <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*The people may be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lift High the Cross*

Green Book 377

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*The people stand.*

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*After each petition:*

*A: As we travel our Lenten Journey, 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.**

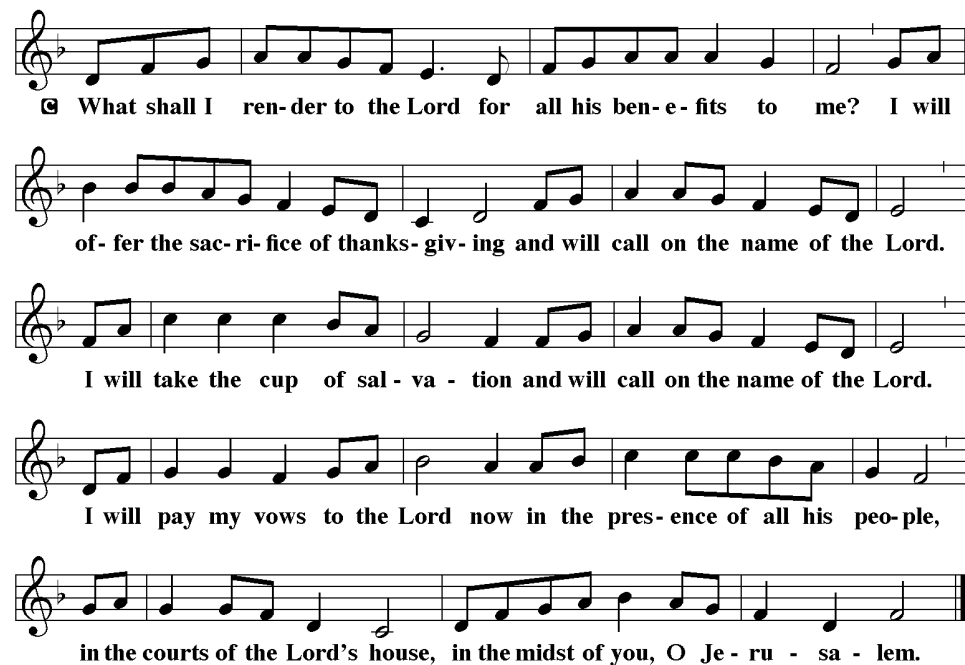
*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.*

## 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.

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*The people stand.*

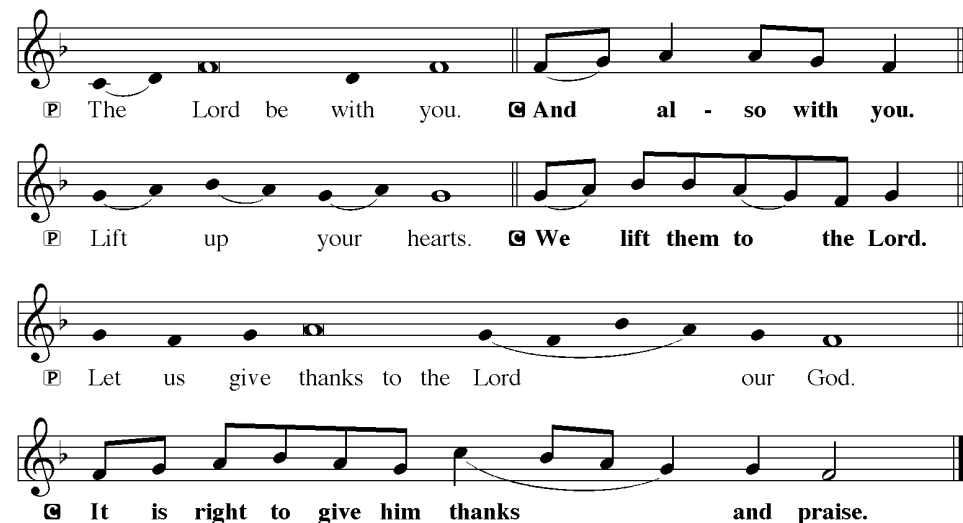


**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will  
of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
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

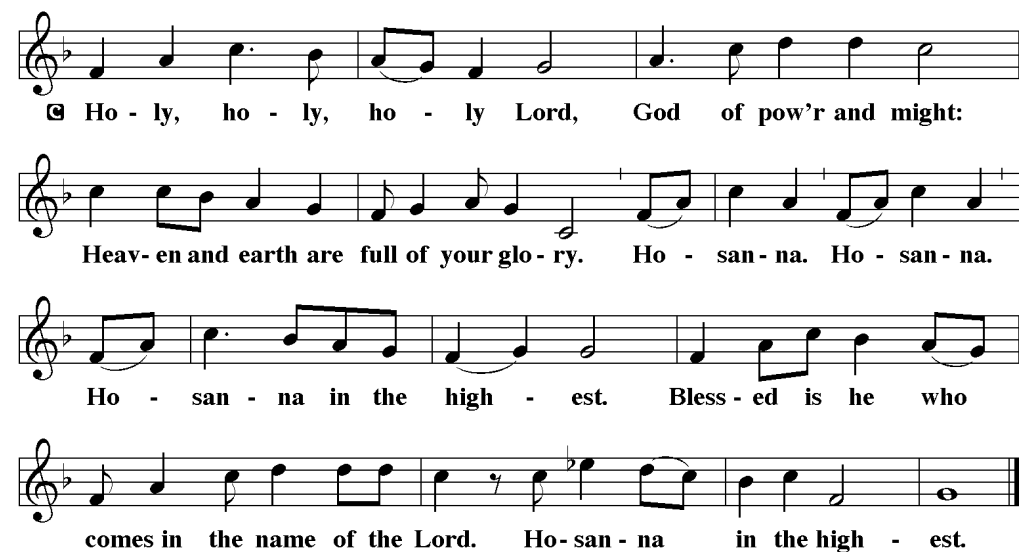


**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## THE PREFACE

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

## THE 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.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

C: Amen.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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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

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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

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P: Our Lord Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

C: **Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The people may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

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☞ 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

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*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 406, 438, 223*

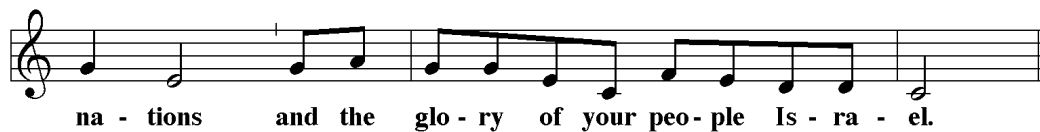
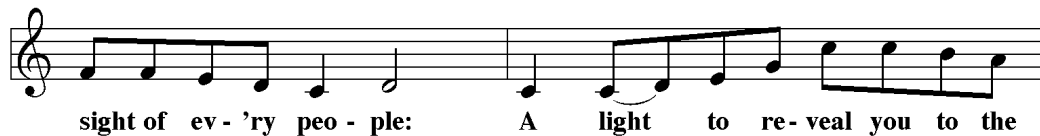
## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*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



## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

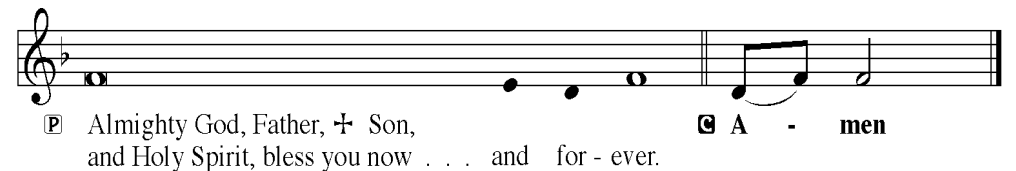
**A:** Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



## Sending

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL



**A:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## SENDING HYMN

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

Green Book 104



## THE POSTLUDE

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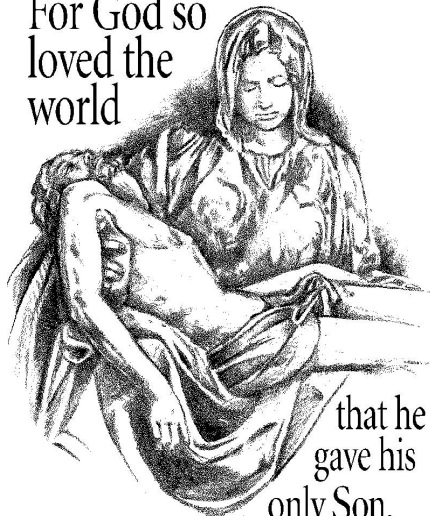
*We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.*

## 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*

For God so  
loved the  
world



that he  
gave his  
only Son.

John 3:16

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

65 E. Columbus St.

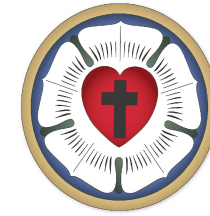
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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



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:

Mar. 12 Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604

Mar. 17 Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, 461

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 5 LENT (MARCH 17)**

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Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

Psalms 51:1-12

John 12:20-33