



This Sunday

*8:30am Pastor's Study of
Hebrews
(Fellowship Hall)*

*9am Sunday
Discussion Group
(Campus Ministry Center)*

*9:30am Fellowship
(Fellowship Hall)*

*10:10am Worship
(Sanctuary)*

*Town Hall Meeting
(following worship)*

Connect With Us

www.gracedurham.org

Copies of the week's
announcements are
located in the Narthex.

If you'd like to receive our
eNews via email,
please contact
office@gracedurham.org

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 30th, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent



David H. Brooks, Pastor

*We go with Good News, teaching, serving,
and sharing Christ with our neighbors.*

TODAY'S VERSE:

*"Come to Me, all you who are weary and are carrying
heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." - Matthew 11:28*

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

Worshiping with us for the first time?

*Please fill out a guest card in the pew racks and tell us about yourself.
If you have any questions, please ask an usher or any friendly face you see!*

*We welcome children in worship services.
Age-appropriate activity bags are located in the Narthex.*

INSIGHT INTO TODAY'S READINGS

Jesus Christ Has Reconciled Us to the Father

God the Father has opened His heart to us in love.

*While we were "still a long way off," He saw us and "felt compassion" (Luke 15:20).
Therefore, He gave His only begotten Son for us, making "him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21).*

By the ministry of reconciliation, He runs to us, embraces us in mercy and clothes us with His glory as beloved sons in Christ Jesus. And so we give thanks unto the Lord our God, who has taken away our sins and turned His anger from us (Is. 12:1).

*Because He has become our salvation, our strength and our song,
we "will trust, and will not be afraid" (Is. 12:2).*

The congregation is asked to join in with the bold-faced text.

PRELUDE

WE PREPARE TO MEET OUR LORD



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:8)*

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

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.

P Almighty God in His Mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake
forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ,
and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of
the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN – *O Worship the King* (LSB 804)



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

**5 Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend!**

**6 O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
While angels delight to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall sing to Thy praise.**

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.; Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727; Text and tune: Public domain

WE WELCOME OUR LORD

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE – *Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved* (LSB 945)

Cantor



1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer-cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, Redeemer of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer-cy up - on us.

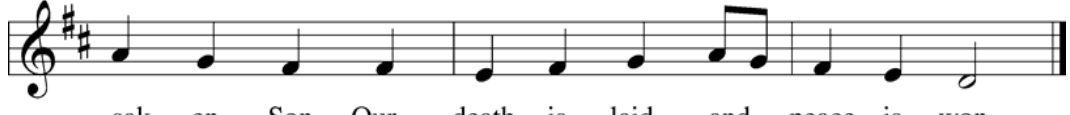
Congregation



Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, By ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save From sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid The fee - ble



e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; Up - on Your cross - for -
death and grasp of grave; Your scars be - fore the
child Your grace has made. Now make us grow and



sak - en Son Our death is laid, and peace is won.
Fa - ther move His heart to mer - cy at such love.
help us pray; Bring joy and com - fort; come to stay.

Text: © 1970 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227; Tune: Public domain

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 12:1–6 (*Pew Bible*, pg. 576)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 12th Chapter of Isaiah.

¹You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

²“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.” ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted.

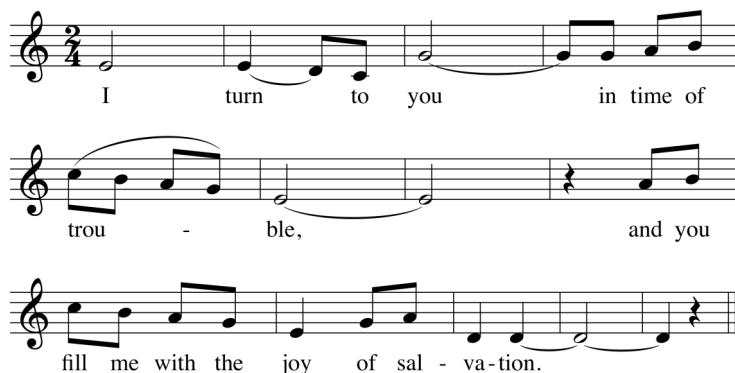
⁵“Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32 — *I Turn to You* (Gather Comprehensive 44)

Congregation Sings Refrain:



English translation Lectionary for
Mass © 1969 ICEL; © 1991 GIA
Publications, Inc.

- 1 Happy is he whose sin is forgiven, whose fault is taken away. Happy is she whom God shall find of an innocent heart, in whose soul there is no guile. **Refrain**
- 2 I kept my sin held deep in my soul, and my frame was wasted away. Night and day was your hand a weight upon my heart; I was weak, wracked with fever and alone. **Refrain**
- 3 Then I acknowledged the pain of my sin, and my guilt I covered not. I said I confess my fault unto you, and you took away the guilt of my sin. **Refrain**
- 4 Oh, be glad in our God; exult, you just; rejoice, all you upright of heart. **Refrain**

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:16–21 (*Pew Bible, pg. 966*)

The Epistle Lesson is from the 5th Chapter of 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C 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.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32 (*Pew Bible*, pg. 874)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th Chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: . . . “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired

himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!

¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”

²⁰And he arose and came to his father.

(continues)

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.

²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.

²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

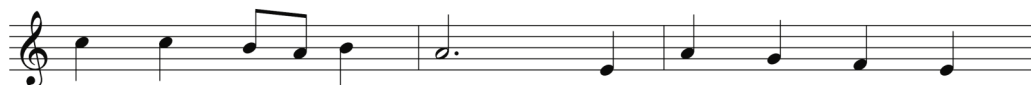
C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON—*The Rev. Dr. David H. Brooks*

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Our Father, We Have Wandered* (WOV 733)



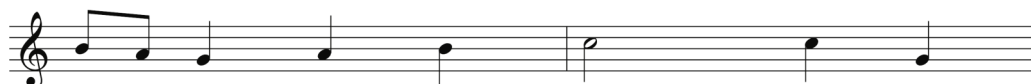
1. Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered And
 2. And now at length dis - cern - ing The
 3. O Lord of all the liv - ing, Both



hid - den from your face; In fool - ish - ness have
 e - vil that we do, Be - hold us, Lord, re -
 ban - ished and re - stored, Com - pas - sion - ate, for -



squan - dered Your leg - a - cy of grace. But
 turn - ing With hope and trust to you. In
 giv - ing, And ev - er - car - ing Lord, Grant



now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, We
 haste you come to meet us And
 now that our trans - gress - ing, Our



rise with fear and shame, As, dis - tant but com -
 home re - joic - ing bring, In glad - ness there to
 faith - less - ness may cease. Stretch out your hand in



pell - ing, We hear you call our name.
 greet us With calf and robe and ring.
 bless - ing, In par - don, and in peace.

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN; Composer: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; Arranger: J. S. Bach, 1685-1750
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NICENE CREED *(spoken in unison)*

**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.

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. . .

After each prayer, the congregation responds

- P** Lord in Your mercy,

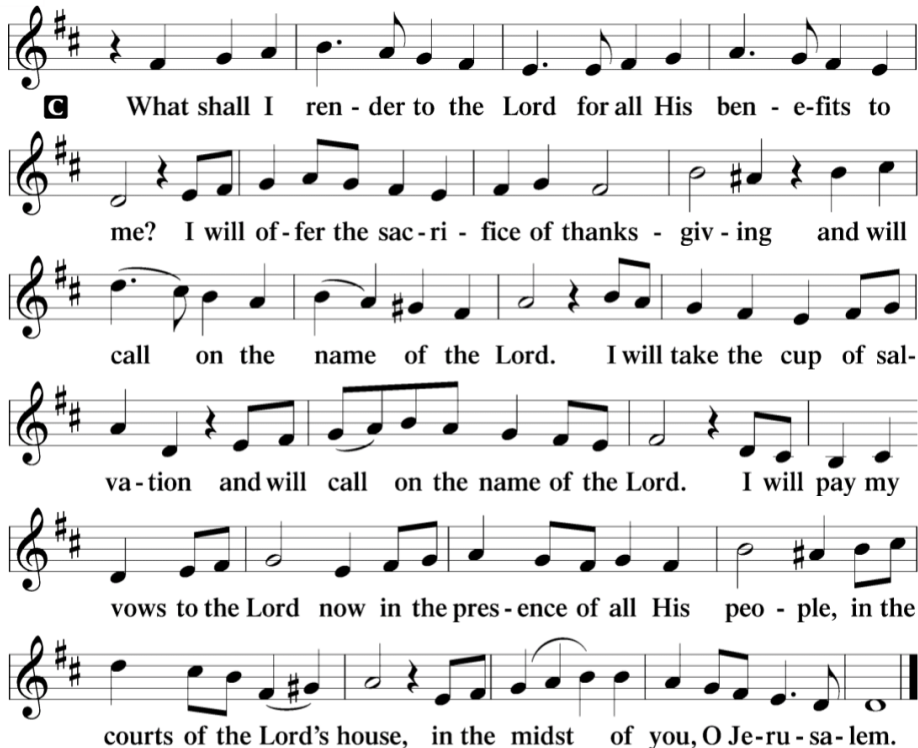
C Hear our prayer.

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, with the 'hand wave of peace', as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

OFFERTORY



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.

OUR LORD GIVES HIMSELF TO US

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



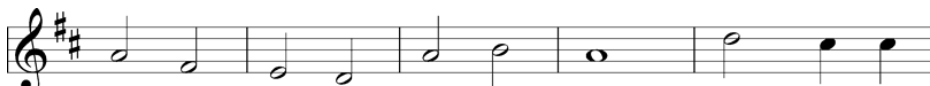
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary ... we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.

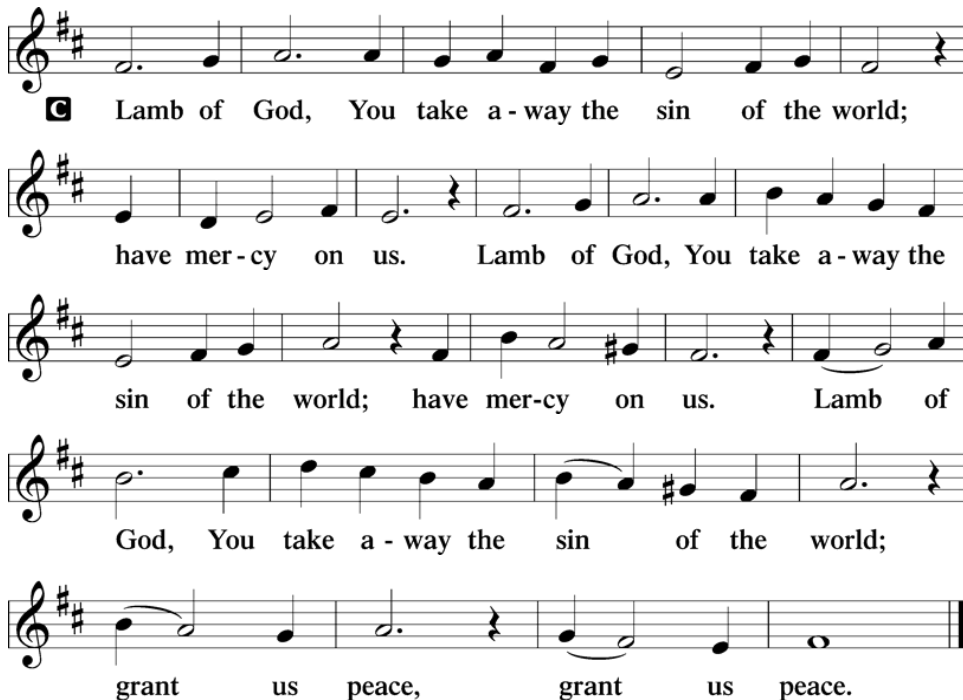
THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...
...All honor and glory are Yours, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in Your
holy Church, now and forever.
- C** Amen.
- P** Remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

AGNUS DEI



C 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Receiving Holy Communion

As Lutheran Christians, we believe, teach, and confess that Jesus Christ gives us His own true Body and Blood via the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10:16).

We trust His promise that this Supper is for the forgiveness of our sins, the increase of our faith, and the strengthening of our life as the Church. Baptized Christians who share our confession, repent of their sins, and seek the Lord's blessing are welcome to receive.

First time guests are kindly asked to speak to our pastor or an usher before receiving communion. Those not communing are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

For silent prayers before and after receiving communion, please see next page.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (LSB 449)



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weigh'd down,
2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer'd Was all for sin - ners' gain;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,
4 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?
Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,
Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.
My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (LSB 739)

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
When my life is al - most gone,
And the day is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

Text and tune: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993

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[For silent prayer before communing]

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this Holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[For silent prayer after receiving the Sacrament]

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT

NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. 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.

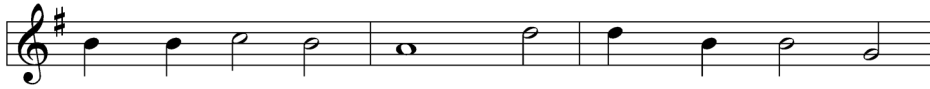
BENEDICTION

- P** 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.
- G** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (LSB 528)



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -
 3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the
 sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!
 earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.
 foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.

- 5 **Look unto Him, ye nations; own Your God, ye fallen race.
 Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace.**
- 6 **See all your sins on Jesus laid; the Lamb of God was slain.
 His soul was once an off'ring made for ev'ry soul of man.**
- 7 **To God all glory, praise, and love, be now and ever giv'n
 by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav'n.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Tune: Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL:

- P** On the evening of that [Easter] day,...Jesus said to them again,
 “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
 (John 20:19-21)
- C** **We go in the power of the Resurrection,
 to be ready to be witnesses to our Lord’s work and to bless our neighbors
 in daily life, for we seek to be Church wherever we are.**

- P** Go with Good News! Teach what you have learned!
Serve as you have been served! Share what you have been given!
- C** To the glory of God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Organist: Erin Hodge

Ushers

Scott Gesell
Tom McGill*
*Acolyte

Reader

Joyce Rea

Communion Assistant

Beverly Hudgins

Greeter:

Kathy Pittman

Altar Guild

Kae Huggins
Setup and clean up

A/V Operator

Barb Tippin



UPCOMING AT GRACE

Monday, March 31st

Pastor's Brown Bag Bible Study (11:30am)

Tuesday, April 1st

Growing Thru Grief (4pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church)

Wednesday, April 2nd

LWML Quilting Group (10am)

Lent Noon Prayer Service (12pm)

Lent Simple Supper (6pm)

Choir Practice (6:15pm)

Lent Evening Prayer Service (7pm)



Grace Lutheran Church

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office@gracedurham.org

919.682.6030

Livestream



Scan the QR code above or
visit

[www.gracedurham.org/
livestream-channel](http://www.gracedurham.org/livestream-channel)

Call In - Audio Only:

309-205-3325, 312-626-
6799, 305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 859 9393 2922

Passcode: 9196826030

Giving



Grace Generous Giving
Quick Response (QR) Code,
provides a simple and secure
method of giving.

Hover over the QR code with
your phone camera and it
will take you to our giving
page to make a donation.