



Grace Lutheran Church | 824 N. Buchanan Blvd. | Durham, NC 27701

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



**David H. Brooks, Pastor— March 2, 2025**

## WELCOME TO GRACE

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

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**Contact Us:** [office@gracedurham.org](mailto:office@gracedurham.org)  
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9196826030

## TODAY'S VERSE:

*"In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to boast of my work for God."*

*- Romans 15:17*

PRELUDE

## The Transfiguration of Our Lord, Last Sunday after the Epiphany

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** Who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

# OPENING HYMN: *LSB 413 "O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair"*

1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair  
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh  
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray  
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high  
 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son

Of glo - ry that the Church may share,  
 The in - car - nate Lord holds con - verse high;  
 Christ deigns to man - i - fest to day;  
 By this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y,  
 And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one,

Which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,  
 And from the cloud the Ho - ly One  
 What glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove  
 For which in joy - ful strains we raise  
 We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace

Where bright - er than the sun He glows!  
 Bears rec - ord to the on - ly Son.  
 Who joy in God with per - fect love.  
 The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.  
 To see Thy glo - ry face to face.

Text: Sarum Breviary, 1495, Salisbury; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: English, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

## WE WELCOME OUR LORD

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### KYRIE (*Sung Through Three Times*):

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*Sung to the Tune of LSB 515 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*):

*1 To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav’nly King.*

*2 To You, O sole-begotten, The Father’s Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high—*

*3 For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.*

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12** (*Pew Bible, pg. 177*)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 34<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Deuteronomy.

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho.

And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup>all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, <sup>3</sup>the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

<sup>4</sup>And the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." <sup>5</sup>So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, <sup>6</sup>and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day.

<sup>7</sup>Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. <sup>8</sup>And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. <sup>9</sup>And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

<sup>10</sup>And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, <sup>11</sup>none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, <sup>12</sup>and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 99- *"Sing to the Lord" Psalms 98, 99, and 100 from Celtic Psalms*  
*Volume 1 Musical Resources for Meditation and Worship*

**Refrain**



Verse 1: Make a joyful noise to God; earth and heaven, break into song, singing praise to God on high with voice and whistle and fiddle sound.

**Refrain**

Verse 2: Let the sea and all that fills it; people that on earth do dwell; hills valleys, sing together in the presence of God on high.

**Refrain**

Verse 3: God is king. The people tremble; we will praise your holy name. Mighty king of peace and justice, great and marvelous are your ways.

**Refrain**

Verse 4: Moses and his brother Aaron on called unto your holy name, crying to the Lord our God, who answered them in a pillar of cloud.

**Refrain**

Verse 5: The Lord our God gave answer to them and forgave them all their wrongs. We'll extol your holy name and worship you on a mountain high.

**Refrain**

Verse 6: Joyful noise to God; with thanks giving, bless God's name. For the Lord is gracious, and God's steadfast love will always remain.

**Refrain**

## EPISTLE LESSON:

**Hebrews 3:1-6** (*Pew Bible, pg. 1002*)

The Epistle Lesson is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup>Who was faithful to him Who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup>For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself.

<sup>4</sup>(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup>Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup>but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE:

**C** 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.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth Chapter.

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

<sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings [Jesus] took with Him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And as He was praying, the appearance of His face was altered, and His clothing became dazzling white.

<sup>30</sup>And behold, two men were talking with Him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup>who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and those who were with Him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with Him.

<sup>33</sup>And as the men were parting from Him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.

<sup>34</sup>As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to Him!” <sup>36</sup>And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

**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: *LSB 411 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.  
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,

The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*  
 In Him there is no dark - ness at all.

The night and the day are both a - like.

The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text and tune: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934  
 Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227

RITE OF BAPTISM (See Insert)

## ..... WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD .....

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

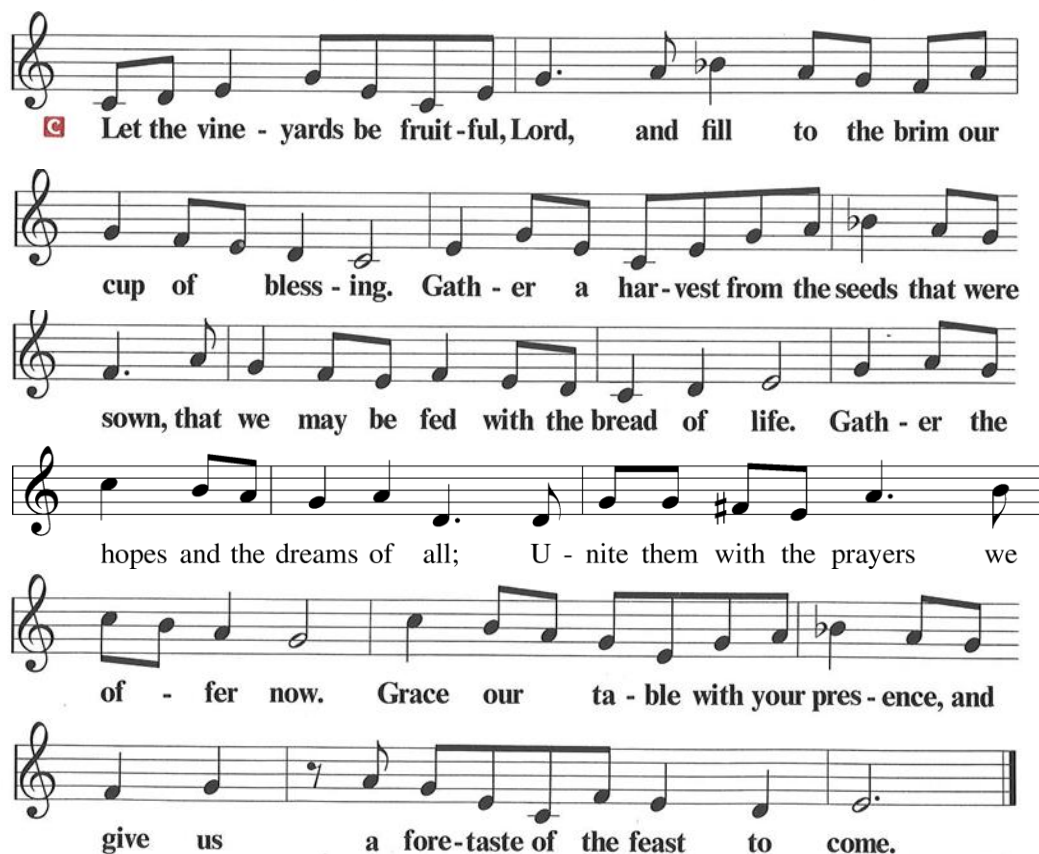
- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. . .  
Lord in Your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.

### 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

OFFERTORY: *(Ushers bring offering plate forward during the Offertory)*



**C** 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.

..... 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 that . . .

### 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.

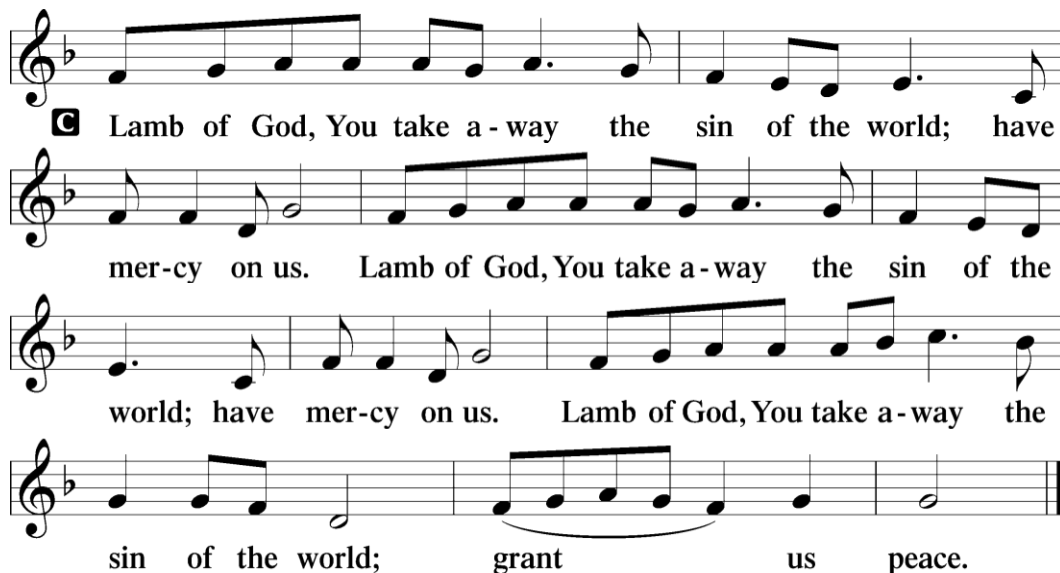
## GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER:

**P** As we prepare for this great gift, let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

**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.

### 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 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.*

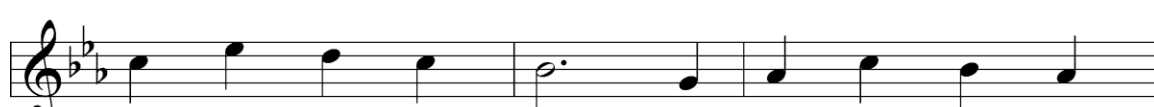
**[For silent prayer after receiving the Sacrament]**

*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.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: **LSB 414 “’Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here”**



1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy  
2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy  
3 Ful - fill - er of the past And  
4 Be - fore we taste of death, We  
5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet



glo - ry fills the night; Thy face and gar - ments,  
beau - ty to be - hold Where Mo - ses and E -  
hope of things to be, We hail Thy bod - y  
see Thy king - dom come; We long to hold the  
we may not re - main; But since Thou bidst us



like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.  
glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.  
vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.  
leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.  
Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## LSB 416 "Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory"

1 Swift - ly pass the clouds of glo-ry, Heav-en's voice, the daz-zling light;  
2 Glimpsed and gone the rev - e - la-tion, They shall gain and keep its truth,  
3 Lord, trans - fig - ure our per-ception With the pur - est light that shines,

Mo-ses and E - li - jah van - ish; Christ a - lone com - mands the height!  
Not by build-ing on the moun-tain An - y shrine or sa - cred booth,  
And re-cast our life's in - ten - tions To the shape of Your de - signs,

Pe - ter, James, and John fall si - lent, Turn - ing from the sum-mit's rise  
But by fol - low - ing the Sav - ior Through the val - ley to the cross  
Till we seek no oth - er glo - ry Than what lies past Cal - v'ry's hill

Down-ward toward the shad-owed val-ley Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.  
And by test - ing faith's re - sil-i-ence Through be - tray - al, pain, and loss.  
And our liv - ing and our dy - ing And our ris - ing by Your will.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1945–2022; Tune: Amanda Husberg, 1940–2021; Text: © 1994 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227; Tune: © 2000 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227

## WE THANK OUR LORD

THANK THE LORD:

☐ 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 COLLECT:

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## ..... GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT .....

### 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.

**C** Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN: *LSB 417 "Alleluia, Song of Gladness"*

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that  
2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -  
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song - while  
4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed

can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them  
lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,  
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions  
Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter

Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of  
All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -  
Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn  
With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -

God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.  
time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.  
ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; Tune: John Goss, 1800–80; Text and tune: Public domain

## DISMISSAL:

**P:** Go forth! Walk in the light of Christ to the glory of God and for the care of the neighbor.

**C:** We go in the peace of God. Amen.

## POSTLUDE



### Grace Generous Giving QR Code

Quick response codes (QR codes) - provide a simple and secure method of giving. Hover over the QR code with your smartphone camera and tap the notification that pops up. You will be taken to the giving page on our website (Vanco) to make your donation.

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## SERVING YOU TODAY:

**Organist:** Erin Hodge

**10:10 AM** **Ushers**  
Walt Crosmer  
Tom McGill\*

**Reader**  
Walt Crosmer

**Communion Assistant**  
Joseph Wethman

**Greeter:** Christine Wethman

**Altar Guild:** Carol Walton  
Setup; Carol Walton, Cleanup

**A/V Operator:** Barb Tippin

\*Acolyte

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**Acknowledgments:** Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## ***The Sacrament of Holy Baptism***

***Stephanie Alice Smith***

**Sunday, March 2, 2025, 10:10 AM**

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Durham, NC**

P: Beloved of God, we rise to greet those who have been called by the Holy Spirit to follow our Lord Jesus in his more excellent way, to share in our Lord's Supper and to be with us witnesses to our Lord's life and work in the world.

**Sponsor: I present Stephanie Alice Smith to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.**

P: You have been among us to hear God's Word, the holy and lifesaving Gospel. What do you ask of God's Church?

**R: To be baptized and live among you as one redeemed by God.**

P: Dear ones, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own.

Therefore, begone, you unclean spirit, for you must give way for the Holy Spirit in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the ✠ cross upon your forehead, for from now on you will seek the mind of Christ; upon ✠ your hands, for from now on you will lift up holy hands to his glory; upon ✠ your heart, for from now on you will belong to him who loves you.

Let us pray.

O almighty and eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray on behalf of Your servant Stephanie Alice Smith, who asks for the gift of Your Baptism and desires Your eternal grace through spiritual rebirth. Receive her, Lord, according to Your promise: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Now give Your blessing to her who asks and open the door to her who knocks, so that she may obtain the eternal blessing of this heavenly bath and receive the promised kingdom that You give; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*All travel together to the font.*

P: In Christian love you have presented and stand with this one called to the waters of death and new birth. Will you pray for Stephanie Alice Smith, reassure her of the grace and love that God has made known in his Son, encourage and care for her as God grants opportunity and strength, that together, living in the covenant of her baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ? If so, answer “I will.”

*R: I will.*

P: Congregation of Grace, will you receive Stephanie Alice Smith as a fellow sinner redeemed at the cross, and as a fellow saint blessed with the Holy Spirit? Will you pray for her, surround her with Christian love and care, and share with her the lessons of Law and Gospel from God’s holy Word?

**C: We will.**

P: May God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work, and with his grace fulfill what in weakness you are unable to do.

*The pastor addresses the candidate(s).*

P: How are you named?

*R: Stephanie Alice Smith*

P: Stephanie Alice Smith, the Word of God teaches us that all who are baptized into Christ Jesus are baptized into his death. In baptism, we are buried with Christ into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.”

And so I ask you to profess your faith in Jesus Christ, reject sin and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P: Do you renounce the devil?

*R: Yes, I renounce him.*

P: Do you renounce all his works?

*R: Yes, I renounce them.*

P: Do you renounce all his ways?

*R: Yes, I renounce them.*

*Here, the believing community joins the candidate in confessing the creed.*

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the only son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the holy catholic<sup>a</sup> Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P: Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water, you nourish and sustain all living things. In the waters of the flood, you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. In the waters of the Red Sea, you drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his army and led your people Israel through the waters on dry ground, out of slavery to the freedom of the Promised Land. In the waters of the Jordan River, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, your beloved Son has set us free from all that would hold us in bondage and has opened the way to new and eternal life. He made water a sign of the Kingdom, of cleansing and of rebirth, and so, in obedience to his command, we go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that those washed here may be given new life and be able to tell of your glories in the world.

Wash away the sin of all those cleansed by this water; bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious Kingdom; help them to cling always to the promise and truth of your Word; keep them safe within the Ark of your Church; make of them priests to serve you with joyful hearts.

To you be give praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The candidate is baptized.*

P: Stephanie Alice Smith, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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<sup>a</sup> The term “catholic” is used to speak of the whole Church through space and time as it confesses the full apostolic truth of Christian doctrine and witness.

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and death, and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament.

Pour out your Spirit upon Stephanie Alice Smith: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

**Amen.**

Stephanie Alice Smith, child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the ✠ cross of Christ forever.

### **Giving of the Baptismal Light**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **Welcome from the Congregation**

P: Through baptism, God has included Stephanie Alice Smith in the fellowship of the saints, the royal priesthood, the holy nation, that with us she may declare the wonderful deeds of God.

**C: We welcome you into the household of the Lord, and receive you as a fellow member of the Body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father and a servant with us in the Kingdom of God.**

P: Stephanie Alice Smith, rise, for Christ your Savior calls you! Walk in newness of life, In the strength of the Holy Spirit, with Christ before you to lead, behind you to guard, And beside you to guide to eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

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Stephanie was welcomed into this world on November 25, 1969, by her parents, Sidney and Vera Smith. Stephanie's sponsors are Jamie Craven, Robert and Carolyn McElfatrick. We rejoice with the family, celebrating that Stephanie now has another birthday – born in the Spirit! Thanks be to God!



Grace Lutheran Church