Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent



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

VERSE OF THE DAY:

"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." -John 3:17

Sundays at Grace

8:30am
Lutheranism 101
(Duke Lutheran Center)

9:30am Fellowship Time

10:10am Worship

11:30am Ministry Mingle (Fellowship Hall)

3pm Young Adult PALS

5:30pm Duke Lutherans Prayer Service & Dinner
(Duke Lutheran Center)

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!

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10

Worshiping with us for the first time?

If you are a first time visitor, welcome! We're glad you're here!
We encourage you to review our Statement of Communion on page 16.
If you have any questions, please take a moment to speak with Pastor Brooks or one of our ushers.

Please fill out a guest card in the pew racks and tell us about yourself, or scan the QR code. If you have any questions, you are invited to visit our Welcome Center in the Narthex.

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

INSIGHT INTO THE READINGS

The Word of the Gospel Opens the Eyes of Faith and Fixes Them on Christ Jesus

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram "a great nation," to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to "all the families of the earth" (Gen. 12:2–3). "Abram went, as the LORD had told him" (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan "he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD" (Gen. 12:8). He "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He "justifies the ungodly" (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord's promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which "gives life to the dead" (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, "that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life" (John 3:14–15).

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

Prelude

Call to Worship

Confession and Absolution

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The greatest commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.' And like to is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

C **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us; write Your law upon our hearts, that we may have hearts for You alone.**

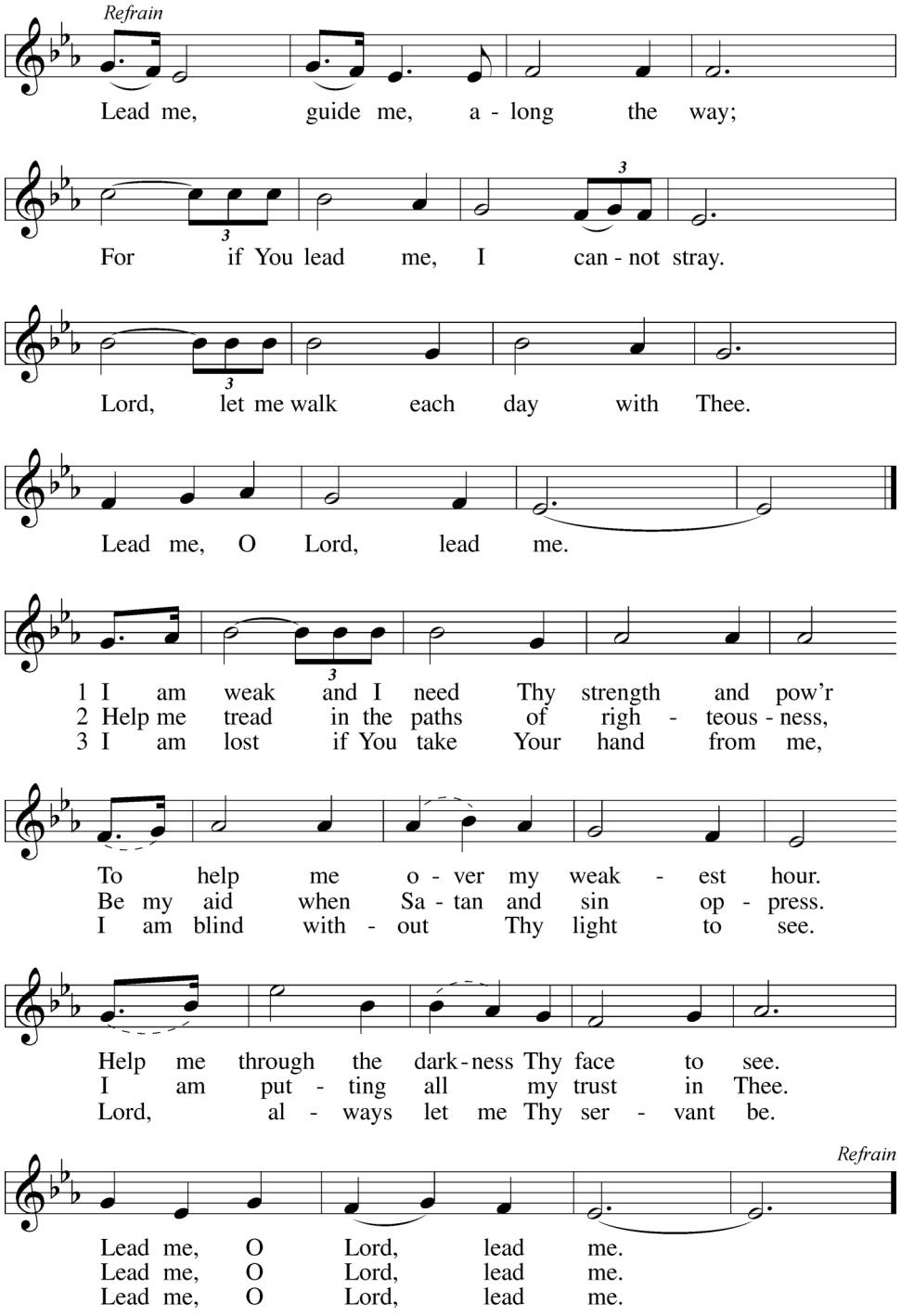
P Dear ones, God so loved the world that He gave His only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in faith and hope, that by His grace we might grow in love for Him and live in love and peace with all.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your eternal punishment. In Your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You, our God. Amen.**

P Mighty 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.**

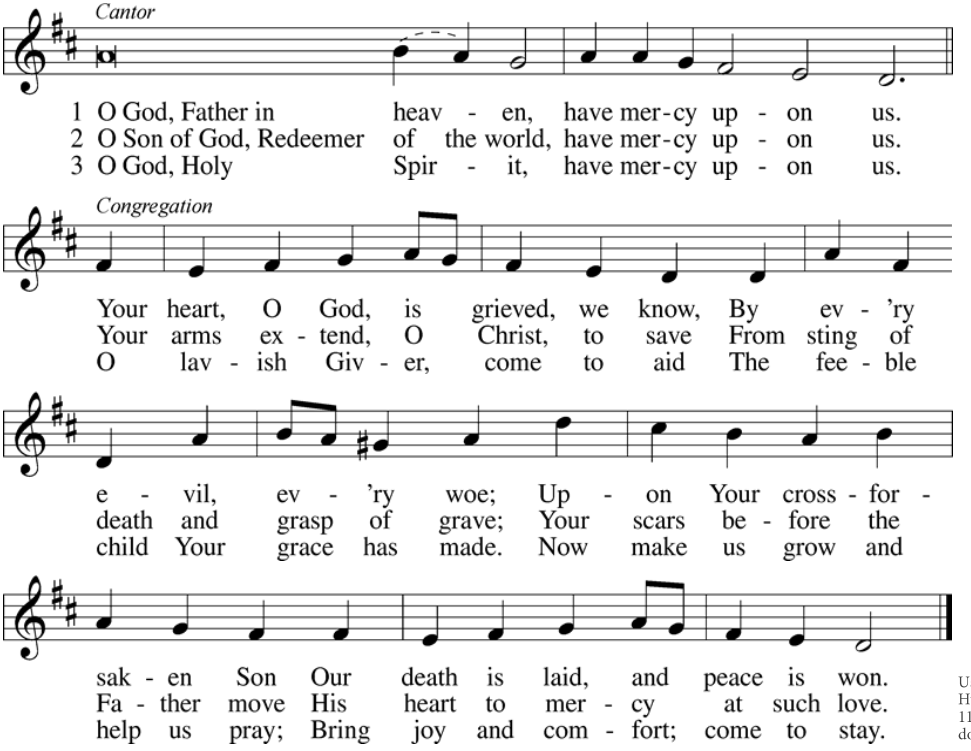
Opening Hymn — *Lead Me, Guide Me* (LSB 721)



Text and tune: © 1953 Doris M. Akers, admin. Chappell & Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227

SERVICE OF THE WORD

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



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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.
O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Genesis 12:1–9 (Pew Bible pg. 8)

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

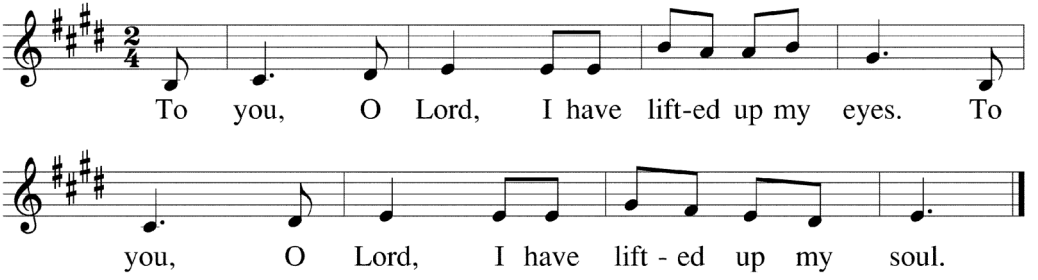
[1]The Lord said to Abram, "Go from
your country and your kindred and your
father's house to the land that I will
show you. [2]And I will make of you a great
nation, and I will bless you and make your
name great, so that you will be a blessing.
[3]I will bless those who bless you, and him
who dishonors you I will curse, and in you
all the families of the earth shall be
blessed." [4]So Abram went, as the Lord
had told him, and Lot went with him.
Abram was seventy-five years old when
he departed from Haran.
[5]And Abram took Sarai his wife, and
Lot his brother's son, and all their
possessions that they had gathered,
and the people that they had acquired
in Haran, and they set out to go to the
land of Canaan. When they came to the
land of Canaan, [6]Abram passed through
the land to the place at Shechem, to the
oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites
were in the land. [7]Then the Lord appeared
to Abram and said, "To your offspring I
will give this land." So he built there an
altar to the Lord, who had appeared to
him. [8]From there he moved to the hill
country on the east of Bethel and pitched
his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai
on the east. And there he built an altar to
the Lord and called upon the name of the
Lord. [9]And Abram journeyed on,
still going toward the Negeb.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121 — *I Lift Up My Eyes* (Gather 118)

Refrain ***(Congregation sings refrain after verses)***



Verses

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall come my help?
   My help shall come from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth.

2. The Lord is your guard and your shade, for ever by your side.
   By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night.

3. The Lord ever watches over you, the guardian of your soul.
   The Lord will guard your coming and your going now and for ever.

Text: Psalm 121:1-2, 5-6, 7-8; Michel Guimont
Music: Michel Guimont
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THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17 (Pew Bible, pg. 941)

The Epistle Lesson is from the 4th Chapter of Romans.

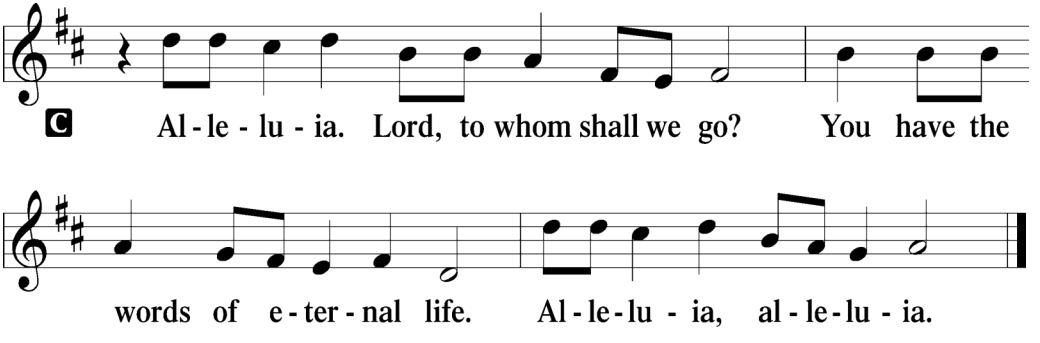
[1]What then shall we say was gained by
Abraham, our forefather according to
the flesh? [2]For if Abraham was justified
by works, he has something to boast
about, but not before God.
[3]For what does the Scripture say?
"Abraham believed God, and it was
counted to him as righteousness."
[4]Now to the one who works, his wages
are not counted as a gift but as his due.
[5]And to the one who does not work but
trusts Him Who justifies the ungodly, his
faith is counted as righteousness,
[6]just as David also speaks of the blessing
of the one to whom God counts
righteousness apart from works:
[7]"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds
are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;
[8]blessed is the man against whom the Lord
will not count his sin." . . .

[13]For the promise to Abraham and his
offspring that he would be heir of the
world did not come through the law but
through the righteousness of faith.
[14]For if it is the adherents of the law who
are to be the heirs, faith is null and the
promise is void. [15]For the law brings
wrath, but where there is no law there is
no transgression.
[16]That is why it depends on faith, in order
that the promise may rest on grace and be
guaranteed to all his offspring—not only
to the adherent of the law but also to the
one who shares the faith of Abraham, who
is the father of us all, [17]as it is written,
"I have made you the father of many
nations"—in the presence of the God in
Whom he believed, Who gives life to the
dead and calls into existence the things
that do not exist.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17 (Pew Bible, pg. 887)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd Chapter.

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

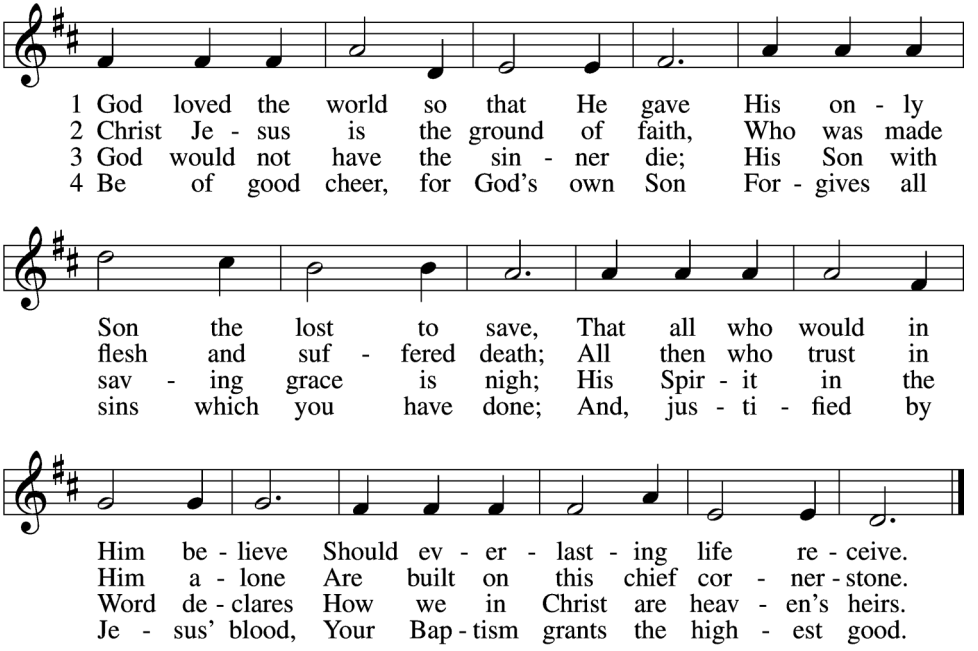
[1]Now there was a man of the Pharisees
named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
[2]This man came to Jesus by night and
said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are
a teacher come from God, for no one can
do these signs that You do unless God is
with him." [3]Jesus answered him,
"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is
born again he cannot see the kingdom of
God." [4]Nicodemus said to Him,
"How can a man be born when he is old?
Can he enter a second time into his
mother's womb and be born?"
[5]Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless one is born of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
[6]That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is
spirit. [7]Do not marvel that I said to you,
'You must be born again.' [8]The wind
blows where it wishes, and you hear its
sound, but you do not know where it
comes from or where it goes. So it is
with everyone who is born of the Spirit."
[9]Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these
things be?" [10]Jesus answered him,
"Are you the teacher of Israel and yet
you do not understand these things?
[11]Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of
what we know, and bear witness to what
we have seen, but you do not receive our
testimony. [12]If I have told you earthly
things and you do not believe, how can
you believe if I tell you heavenly things?
[13]No one has ascended into heaven except
He Who descended from heaven, the Son
of Man. [14]And as Moses lifted up the
serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son
of Man be lifted up, [15]that whoever
believes in Him may have eternal life.
[16]"For God so loved the world, that He
gave His only Son, that whoever believes
in Him should not perish but have eternal
life. [17]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."

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 — *God Loved the World So That He Gave* (LSB 571)



5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt., Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93,
Text and tune: Public domain

Commissioning of Barb Tippin as Stephen Ministry Leader

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.

† *meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of the Christian doctrine*

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.**

(The prayers conclude)

P Into Your hands…
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 Music

Offertory

Please take a moment to fill out the attendance sheet found in your pew and place it in the offering plate as it comes by. Whether you're visiting or a longtime member, this helps us care for one another and stay connected as a church family.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (LSB 955)

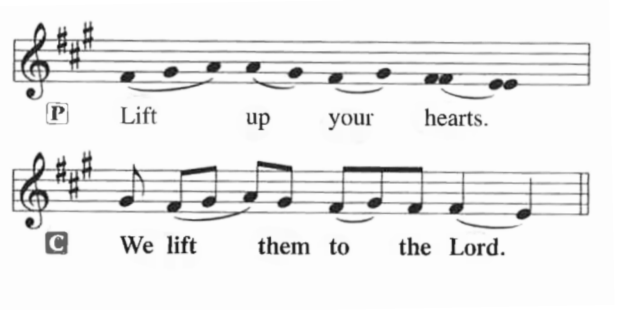


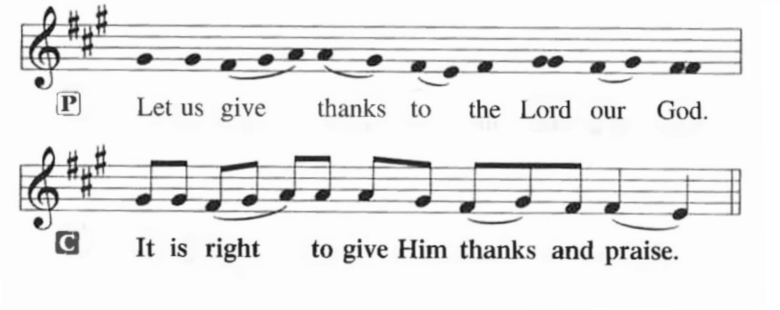
Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80, Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010
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Service of the Sacrament

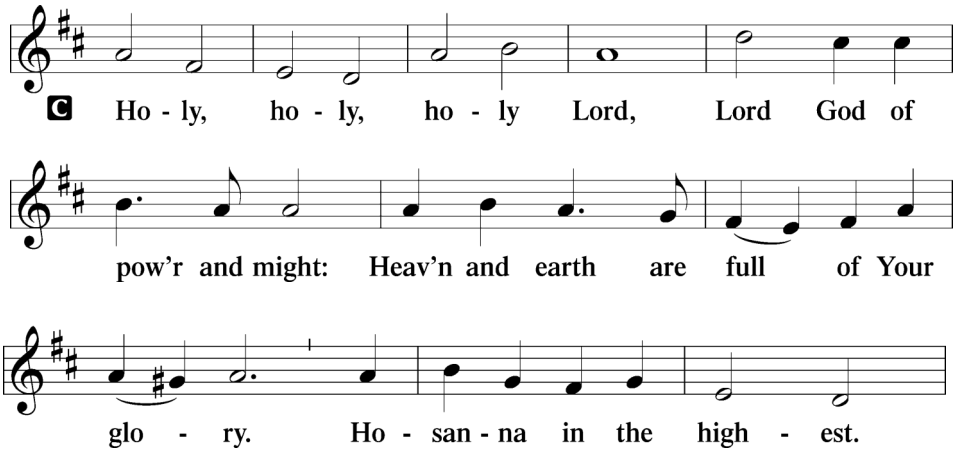
Preface



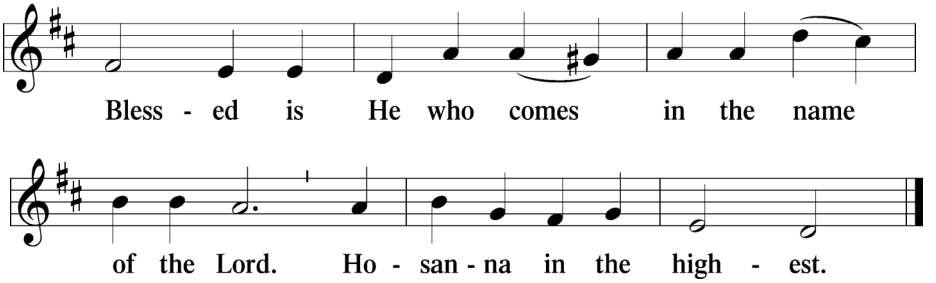




P It is truly good, right, and salutary … we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



(continues)



Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, You alone deserve our worship and praise, for great is the majesty of Your glory.
You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not perish, but have eternal life. Having come into the world, He humbled himself, was obedient even unto death, and accomplished our salvation. As we remember His salutary command, His life-giving passion and death, His glorious resurrection and ascension, and His promise to come again, we give You thanks, Lord God almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore You in Your mercy to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with Your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, Your servants, and these, Your own gifts of bread and wine; that as we share the body and blood of our Lord, we may receive the forgiveness of sins and the joy of life everlasting, to Your eternal glory, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.

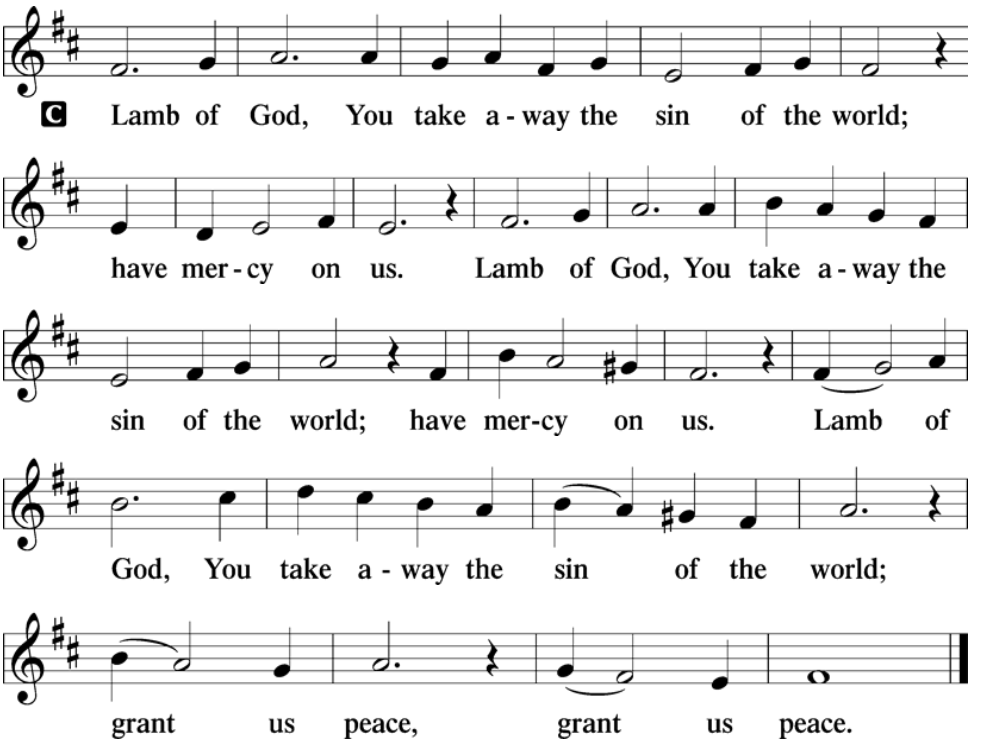
C **Amen.**

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



Holy Communion

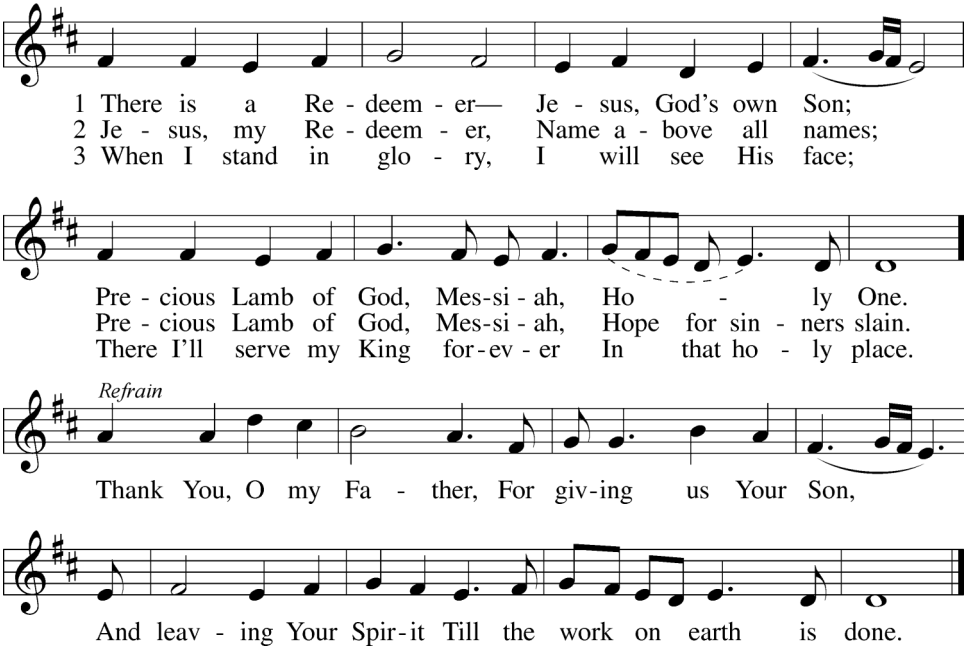
Receiving Holy Communion

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.

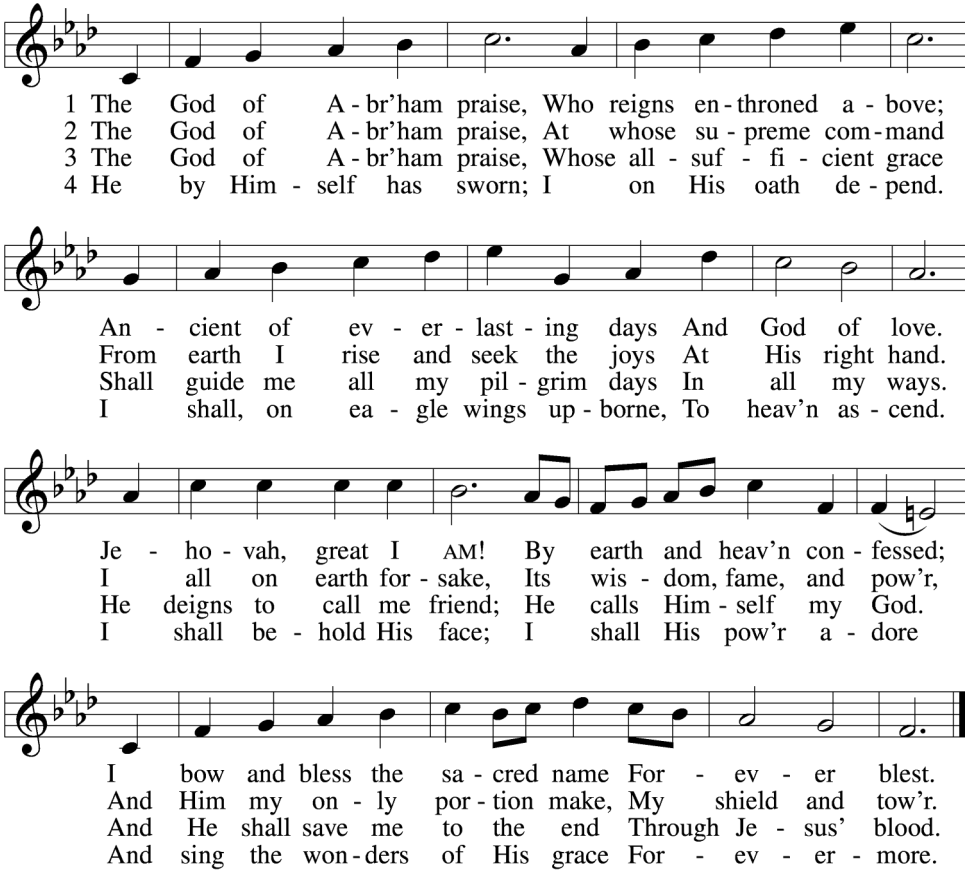
Distribution Hymn — *There Is a Redeemer* (LSB 971)



Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227

Distribution Hymn — *The God of Abraham Praise* (LSB 798)

(Verses 1, 3-4, 10-11)



10 Before the Savior's face
The ransomed nations bow,
O'erwhelmed at His almighty grace
Forever new.
He shows His wounds of love;
They kindle to a flame!
And sound through all the worlds
above, The Paschal Lamb.

11 The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays;
All might and majesty are thine
And endless praise!

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99, alt.
Tune: Hebrew
Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *Blessed Assurance* (WOV 699)



Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915, alt. Music: ASSURANCE; Phoebe P. Knapp, 1839-1908.

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Nunc Dimittis

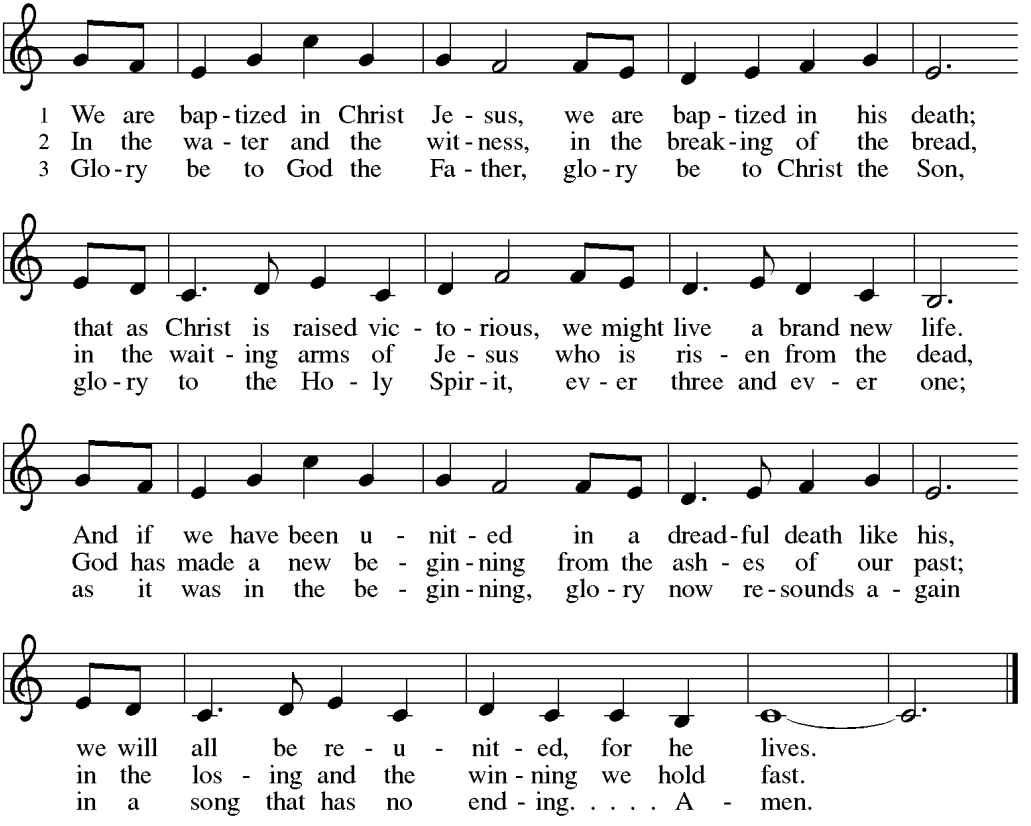


Benediction

P May God the Father, Who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart;
May Christ, Who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by His wounds;
May the Holy Spirit, Who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, ✝ and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn — *We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus* (WOV 698)



Contributors: John Ylvisaker, Tune: Ouimette Text: Based on Romans 6:1-11

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Dismissal

P We go in the strength and joy of God! Let us not forget the things that our eyes have seen or let them fade from our hearts as long as we live (Deut 4:9). So let us recall what the Lord has set before us.

P What is the Second Commandment?
C **You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.**

P What does this mean?
C **We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.**

P So go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
C **Thanks be to God!**

UPCOMING AT GRACE

- *Wednesday Evenings — Midweek Lenten Service*
  Noon Prayer Service (12pm)
  Lenten Simple Supper (6:15pm)
  Evening Service (7pm)

- *Thursday Evenings* — Witness Workshop (7pm)
  Contact dco.anna.voelker@gracedurham.org for more information.

- *Saturday, March 21* — Intentional Invite: Blooms and Blessings (10am)

- *Sunday, March 29* — Palm Sunday

Visit our website at gracedurham.org/news for the full calendar of events and small group (PALS) meetings.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Ushers
Walt Crosmer
Tom McGill, Acolyte

Communion Assistants
Marie Snyder
Gary Stuhlmiller

Altar Guild
Dede Crosmer
Marie Snyder

Reader
Kent Silvernail

Greeter
Kathy Peterson
Joyce Eckart

A/V Operator
John Kolba

GRACE STAFF

Pastor
Rev. David Brooks

Parish Administrator
Kim Romigh

Director of Christian Outreach
Deaconess Anna Voelker

Music Director/Organist
Erin Hodge

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Livestream

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Call In - Audio Only:
309-205-3325, 312-626-6799, 305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 847 8043 7557

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.