



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)

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 23rd, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent



David H. Brooks, Pastor

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

TODAY'S VERSE:

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." – 2 Corinthians 5:7

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 Calls you to Repentance

"Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3,5).

By this warning, the Lord would turn us away from wickedness and bring us to life in Himself. For He is patient with us, that we would not be cut down in our sin but live and bear fruit in Him. As He lives, the Lord has "no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezek. 33:11).

So the Scriptures have been "written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come" (1 Cor. 10:11), that we should not desire evil but trust in Christ. He alone is faithful, the Rock who feeds us with His "spiritual food" and pours out His "spiritual drink" (1 Cor. 10:3–4).

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 – *My Soul Now Praise Your Maker* (LSB 820)



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me
 2 He of - fers all His trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and
 3 For as a ten - der fa - ther Has pit - y on his
 4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of
 righ - teous-ness, His love be - yond all mea - sure, His
 chil - dren here, God in His arms will gath - er All
 yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who



mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose
 yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we
 who are His in child - like fear. He knows how frail our
 in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His



meek - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry
 mer - it But sets His an - ger by. The poor and con - trite
 pow - ers, Who but from dust are made. We flour - ish like the
 dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -



weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and
 spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh; And high as
 flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade; The wind but
 cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -



care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who
 heav'n a - bove us, As dawn from close of day, So
 through them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er. We
 ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.
 far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.
 with - er like the grass - es; Our place knows us no more.
 life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

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.

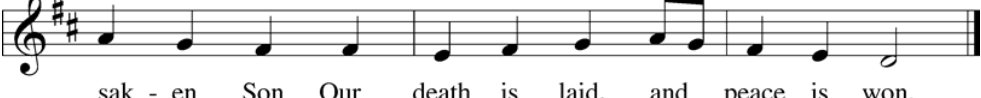
Congregation



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.

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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, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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

Ezekiel 33:7-20 (*Pew Bible, pg. 721*)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 33rd Chapter of Ezekiel.

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness,

and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins.

¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die.

¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. ¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just.

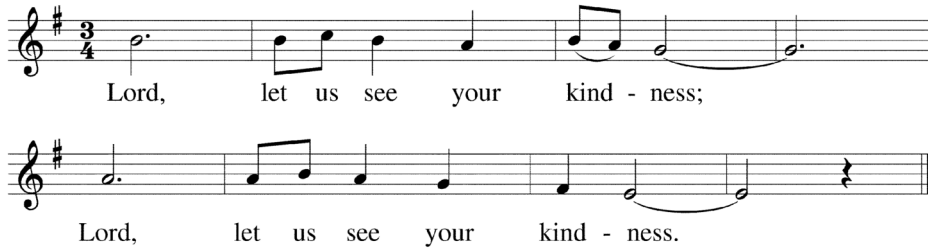
¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85 — *Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness* (Gather Comprehensive 79)

Congregation Sings Refrain



Verse 1: Let us hear what our God proclaims: Peace to the people of God, salvation is near to the ones who fear God. **Refrain**

Verse 2: Kindness and truth, justice and peace; truth shall spring up as the water from earth, justice shall rain from the heavens. **Refrain**

Verse 3: The Lord will come and you shall know his love, justice shall walk in his pathways, salvation the gift that he brings. **Refrain**

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EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (*Pew Bible, pg. 957*)

The Epistle Lesson is from the 10th Chapter of 1 Corinthians.

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”

⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as

some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9 (*Pew Bible, pg. 872*)

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

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

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?

³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?

⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” ⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure.

⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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 – *May God Bestow on Us His Grace* (LBW 824)



1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -
 2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry
 △ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -



vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face
 na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
 creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,



To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing
 The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the
 Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,



health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,
 earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;
 God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!



And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out
 Thy peo - ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
 Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -



mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.
 nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.
 sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: David Lee, 1956 Text: Public domain
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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,

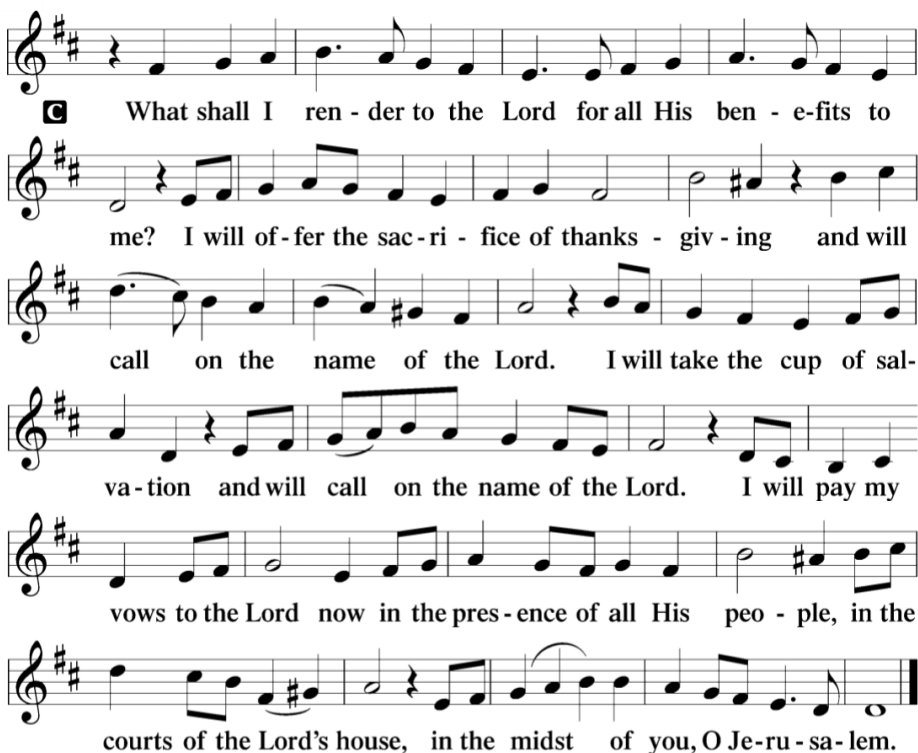
C Hear our prayer.

- 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.

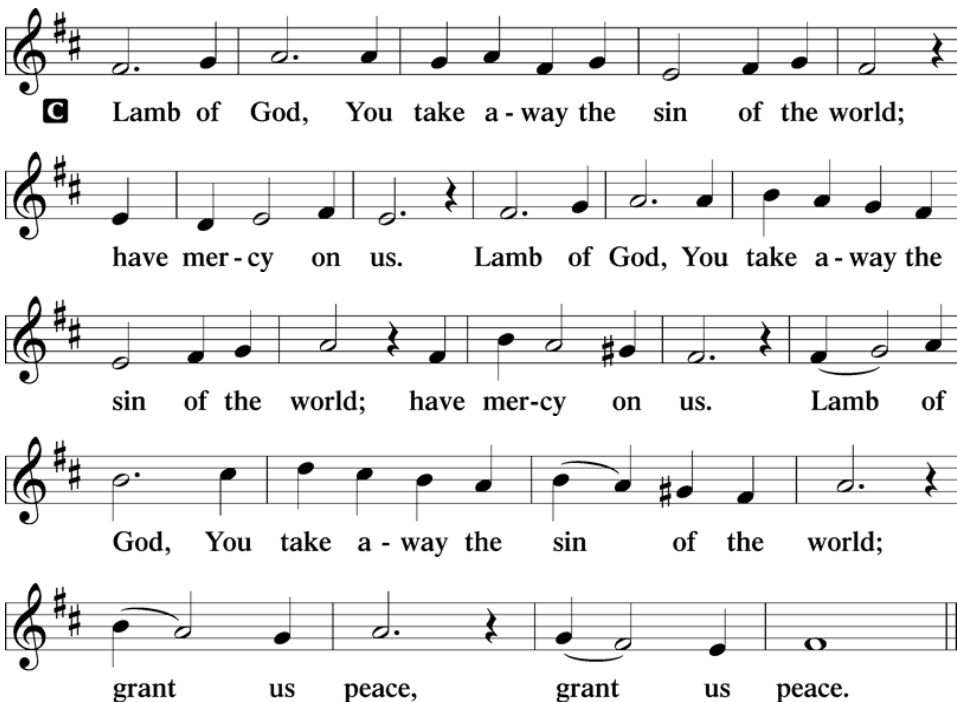
THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- 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 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 — *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* (LSB 437)



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
 2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
 5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The



did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that
 groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
 shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y
 His dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in
 debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
 grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
 mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.
 thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
 self a - way: 'Tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824 Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *Chief of Sinners Though I Be* (LSB 611)



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

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 reveal 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.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN — *Rise, Shine, You People* (LSB 825)



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.



Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
To all the world go out and tell the
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry

Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939–2021, alt. Tune: Dale Wood, 1934–2003 Text and tune: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg

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

Drew Young
Tom McGill*
*Acolyte

Reader

Judy Ferren

Communion Assistant

Jenna Young

Greeter:

Christine Wethman

Altar Guild

Donna Gesell,
Setup and clean up

A/V Operator

John Kolba

UPCOMING AT GRACE

Monday , March 24th— *Pastor's Brown Bag Bible Study (11:30am)*
Book Club — "Winter Garden" (7pm)

Tuesday, March 25th— *Growing Thru Grief (4pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church)*

Wednesday, March 26th — *LWML Quilting Group (10am)*
Lent Noon Prayer Service (12pm)
Lent Simple Supper (6pm)
Choir Practice (6:15pm)
Lent Evening Prayer Service (7pm)



Lenten Worship & Fellowship Opportunities

Wednesdays in Lent
March 26; April 2, 9

12 PM – Midday Lenten Service
with Holy Communion

6 PM – Simple Suppers downstairs in the kitchen

7 PM – Lenten Vespers Evening Prayer Service

Paschal Triduum Thursday
April 17



Grace Lutheran Church

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office@gracedurham.org

919.682.6030

Livestream



Scan the QR code above or
visit

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Call In - Audio Only:

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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.