



This Sunday

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

9am Sunday
Discussion Group
(Campus Ministry Center)

9:30am Fellowship
(Fellowship Hall)

10:10am Worship
(Sanctuary)

11:30am What's Next?
(Fellowship Hall)

11:30am GAB Meeting
(Downstairs Kitchen)

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, April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter



David H. Brooks, Pastor

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

TODAY'S VERSE:

"Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed." - John 20:29

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

That You May Believe and Have Life in His Name

On the Lord's Day, St. John the apostle was given a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. He is the Living One, "the firstborn of the dead" (Rev. 1:5). He died for all people, and behold, He is alive forevermore! Therefore, He has "the keys of Death and Hades" (Rev. 1:18). For His death atoned for sin and conquered death, and in His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to us. The "sharp two-edged sword" of His mouth (Rev. 1:16) calls you to "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God," that by such faith "you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). To that end, He sends His ministers of the Word, as the Father sent Him, "to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:31).

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

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ENTRANCE HYMN – *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (LSB 901)*



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee



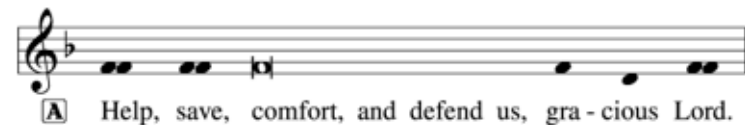
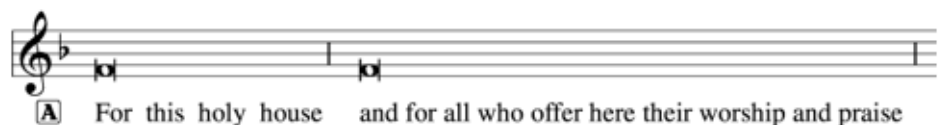
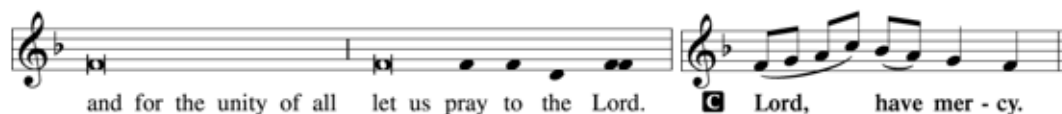
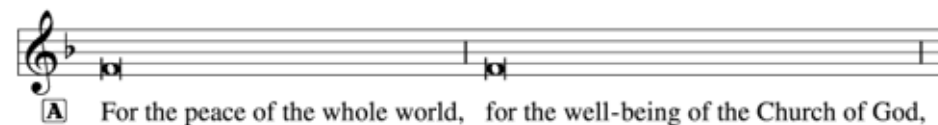
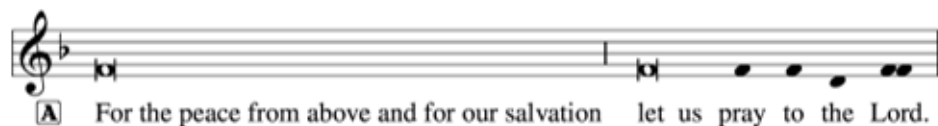
Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



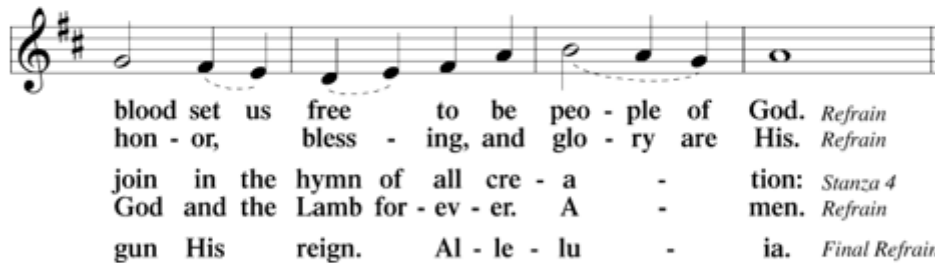
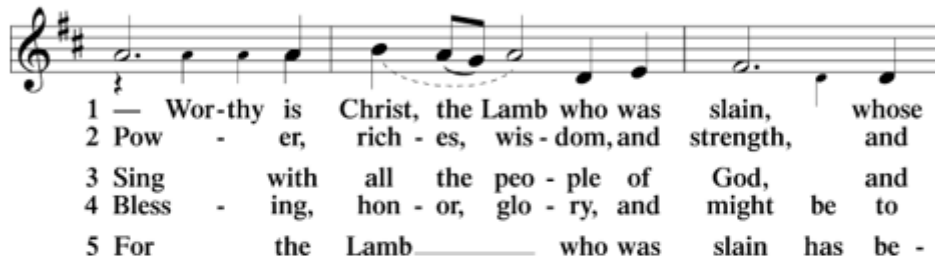
is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–80
Text and tune: Public domain

KYRIE



THIS IS THE FEAST



SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray . . .

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 5:12–32 (*Pew Bible, pg. 913*)

The First Lesson is from the 5th Chapter of Acts.

¹²Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

¹³None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.

¹⁴And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. ¹⁷But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸they arrested

the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²²But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported,

²³"We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside."

²⁴Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words,

(continues on next page)

they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to.

²⁵And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. ²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name,

yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, Whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree.

³¹God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148 - *Let All Praise the Name of the Lord*

Refrain:



1 Praise the Lord from the heavens,
Praise Him, praise Him in the heights.
Praise Him all you His angels.
Praise Him, praise Him all you His hosts.
Refrain.

2 Praise Him sun and moon;
Praise Him, all you shining stars.
Praise Him, praise Him you highest heavens,
And you waters above the heavens. **Refrain.**

3 Mountains and all hills,
Fruit trees and all cedars;
Beasts both wild and tame,
Creeping things and birds on the wing.
Refrain.

4 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
Princes and all judges of the earth,
Young men and maidens as well,
The old and the young together.
Let them praise the name of the Lord,
For His name alone is exalted. **Refrain.**

5 His splendor above earth and heaven.
He exalts the strength of His people.
Refrain.

Music and text: Christy L'Esperance,
Used with permission by SheetMusicDirect.com, Order 10504141

The Second Lesson is from the First Chapter of Revelation.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come, and from the seven spirits Who are before His throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty." ⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard

behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." ¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. ¹⁴The hairs of His head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19–31 (*Pew Bible*, pg. 906)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th Chapter.

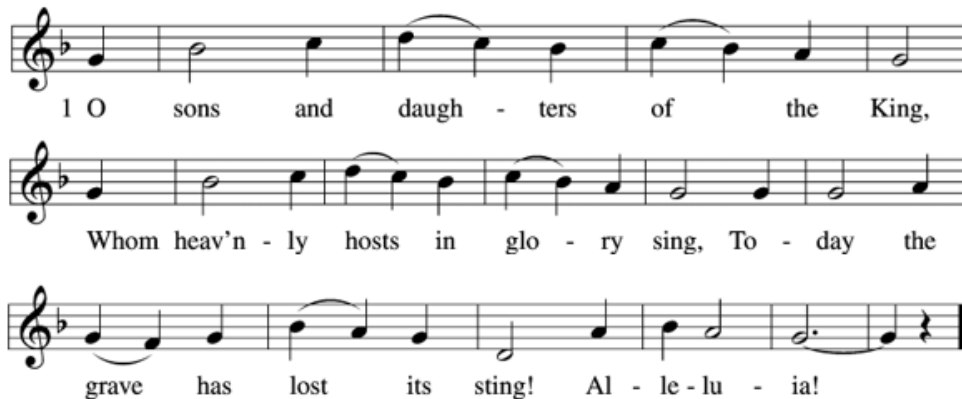
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.” ²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into

the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe.” ²⁶Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY – *O Sons and Daughters of the King* (LSB 471)



5 When Thomas first the tidings heard
That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615; Text and tune: Public domain

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

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.**

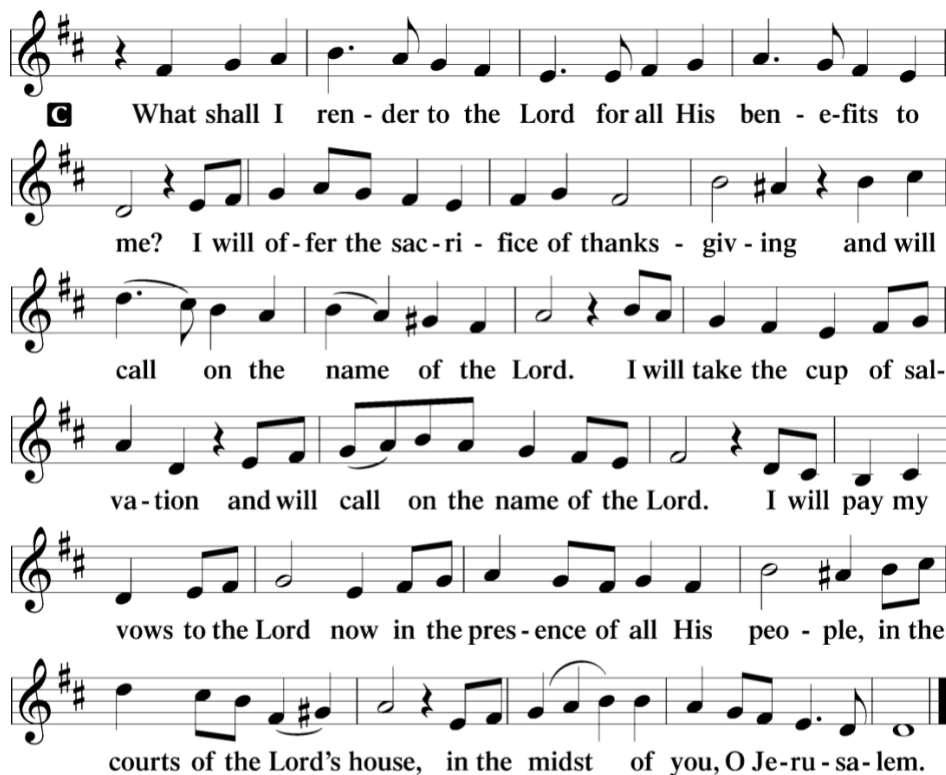
P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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



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.

(continues on next page)

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 ... and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P You are indeed Holy, O God, the Fountain of all holiness; You bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence . . .

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of Your Son . . . with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *(continues on next page)*

P Send now, we pray, Your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the Kingdom of Heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all Your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of Your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our Great High Priest until He comes as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are Yours, almighty Father, 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.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **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 HYMN — *Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord* (LSB 637)

1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,
 And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.
 Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow
 Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.]

Tune: Trente quatre Pseumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois; Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *Have No Fear, Little Flock* (LSB 735)

1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; Have no fear, lit - tle
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; Have good cheer, lit - tle
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; Praise the Lord high a -
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; Thank - ful hearts raise to
 flock, For the Fa - ther has cho - sen To
 flock, For the Fa - ther will keep you In
 bove, For He stoops down to heal you, Up -
 God, For He stays close be - side you, In
 give you the King - dom; Have no fear, lit - tle flock!
 His love for - ev - er; Have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
 lift and re - store you; Praise the Lord high a - bove!
 all things works with you; Thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text (sts. 2–4): Marjorie A. Jillson, 1931–2010; xt (st. 1) and tune: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, 1930–2022]

Text and tune: © 1973 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227

THANK THE LORD



C 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 — *O Love, How Deep* (LSB 544)

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore taught;
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;

Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
Of high - er or thought and of low - er place,
His ho - ly or fast and hun - gered sore;
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,

That God, the Son of God, should take
But wore the robe of of hu - man frame,
For us words temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
By words and signs and ac - tions thus

Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
And to this world Him - self He came.
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.
- 6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.

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

Musicians

Erin Hodge, organist

Ushers

Dave Pittman

Tom McGill*

*Acolyte

Reader

Joyce Rea

Communion Assistant

Jenna Young

Greeter:

Kathy Pittman

Altar Guild

Donna Gesell

Setup and clean up

A/V Operator

John Kolba

UPCOMING AT GRACE

Monday, April 28th

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

Tuesday, April 29th

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

Wednesday, April 30th

LWML Quilting Group (10am)

Noon Prayer Service (12pm)

Choir Practice (6:30pm)

Saturday, May 3rd

Memorial Service for John Grunke (11am)

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



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.