Sundays at Grace

8:30am
Lutheranism 101
(Duke Lutheran Center)

9:30am Fellowship Time

10:10am Worship

11:30am Farmers Market Planning Session

3:00pm 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

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



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

VERSE OF THE DAY:

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven." —Matt. 5:16

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, feel free 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 Righteousness of Christ

Jesus warns that "unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:20), but He also calls His imperfect people "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13, 14). That's because the Lord Jesus came not to abolish the Law or the prophets, "but to fulfill them" (Matt. 5:17) in perfect faith and love. Since He does and teaches all of God's commandments, He is "called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19). God manifests His "demonstration of the Spirit and of power" in "Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2–4), and through the preaching of the Gospel He gives His "secret and hidden wisdom" (1 Cor. 2:7). Christ gives this perfect righteousness to His people, and it leads them to true fasting, which is "to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free" (Is. 58:6) and "to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house" (Is. 58:7).

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.

C **Amen.**

P Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In His light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

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

C **Mighty God, we confess to You and one another that we have sinned.**
We have chosen the crooked path; we preferred darkness to light;
we uttered curses instead of blessings;
we have broken the promises we made;
our hands and hearts are full of violence.
Let Your light and life be upon us,
and forgive us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

P For this, Christ has come: it is not the will of the Lord that any should die,
but that all may turn to receive from Him both pardon and peace.
As a called and ordained servant of the Word,
I announce God's grace and favor to you,
and by His authority I forgive you all your sins,
in the name of the Father and the ✢ Son and the Holy Spirit.

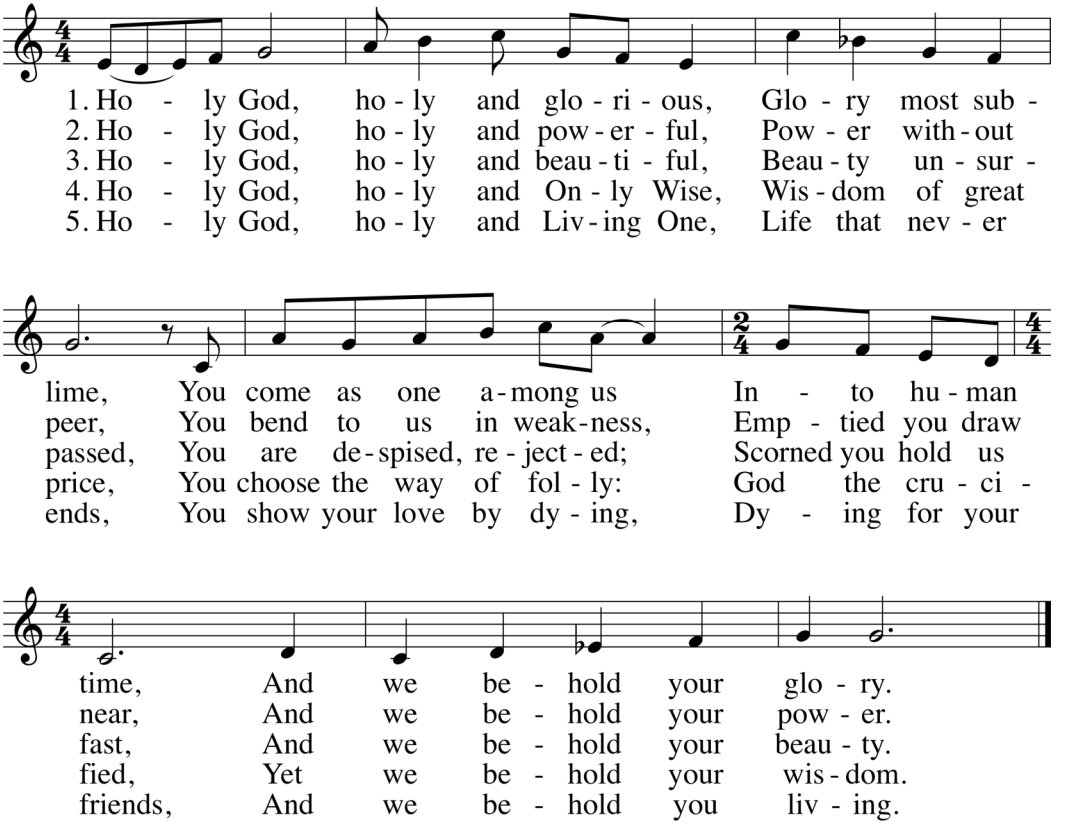
C **Amen.**

Opening Hymn — *Rise, Shine You People!* (LBW 393)



Text: Ronald A. Klug, Tune: Dale Wood. WOJTKIEWIECZ
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Hymn of Praise — *Holy God* (Gather 2nd Ed. 534)



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Salutation and Collect for the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray . . .
O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 58:3–9a (Pew Bible pg. 617)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 58th Chapter of Isaiah.

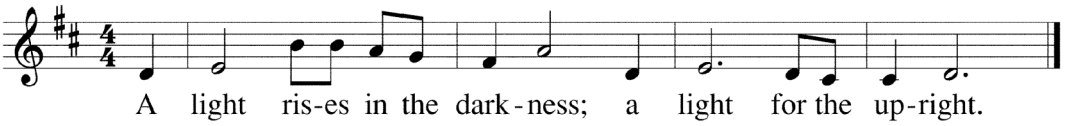
3 "'Why have we fasted, and You see it
not? Why have we humbled ourselves,
and You take no knowledge of it?'
Behold, in the day of your fast you
seek your own pleasure, and oppress
all your workers. 4 Behold, you fast only
to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a
wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will
not make your voice to be heard on high.
5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a
person to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under
him? Will You call this a fast, and a day
acceptable to the Lord?
6 "Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke, to let
the oppressed go free, and to break
every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread
with the hungry and bring the homeless
poor into your house; when you see the
naked, to cover him, and not to hide
yourself from your own flesh?
8 Then shall your light break forth like
the dawn, and your healing shall spring
up speedily; your righteousness shall go
before you; the glory of the Lord shall be
your rear guard. 9 Then you shall call,
and the Lord will answer; you shall cry,
and He will say, 'Here I am.'"

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 112 — *A Light Rises in the Darkness* (Gather Comp. 104)

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



Verses

1. They are lights in the darkness for the upright;
   they are generous, merciful and just.
   Good people take pity and lend, they conduct their affairs with honor.

2. The just will never waver, they will be remembered for ever.
   They have no fear of evil news; with firm hearts they trust in the Lord.

3. With steadfast hearts they will not fear. Openhanded, they give to the poor;
   their justice stands firm for ever. Their heads will be raised in glory.

Text: Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; © 1963, 1993, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL
Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE EPISTLE LESSON — 1 Corinthians 2:1–16 (Pew Bible, pg. 952)

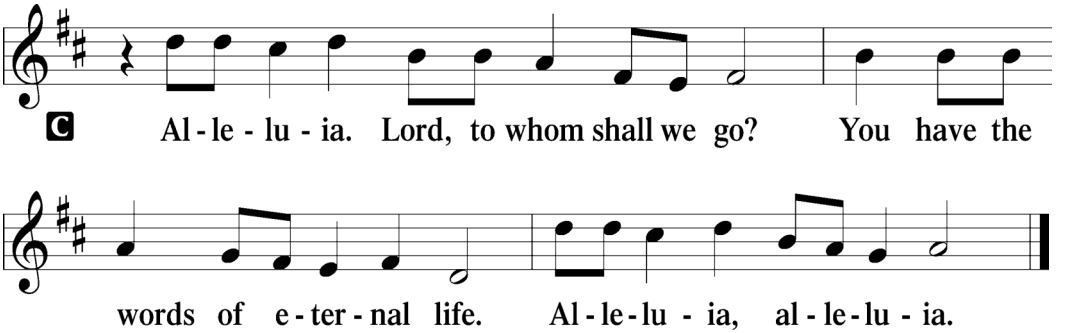
The Epistle Lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of 1 Corinthians.

[1]And I, when I came to you, brothers,
did not come proclaiming to you the
testimony of God with lofty speech or
wisdom. [2]For I decided to know nothing
among you except Jesus Christ and Him
crucified. [3]And I was with you in weakness
and in fear and much trembling,
[4]and my speech and my message were
not in plausible words of wisdom, but
in demonstration of the Spirit and of
power, [5]that your faith might not rest in
the wisdom of men but in the power of
God. [6]Yet among the mature we do impart
wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this
age or of the rulers of this age, who are
doomed to pass away. [7]But we impart a
secret and hidden wisdom of God, which
God decreed before the ages for our
glory. [8]None of the rulers of this age
understood this, for if they had, they
would not have crucified the Lord of
glory. [9]But, as it is written, "What no eye
has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of
man imagined, what God has prepared
for those who love Him"— [10]these things
God has revealed to us through the Spirit.
For the Spirit searches everything, even
the depths of God. *(continues)*

[11]For who knows a person's thoughts
except the spirit of that person,
which is in him? So also no one
comprehends the thoughts of God
except the Spirit of God.
[12]Now we have received not the spirit
of the world, but the Spirit Who is from
God, that we might understand the
things freely given us by God.
[13]And we impart this in words not
taught by human wisdom but taught
by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths
to those who are spiritual.
[14]The natural person does not accept
the things of the Spirit of God,
for they are folly to him, and he is not
able to understand them because
they are spiritually discerned.
[15]The spiritual person judges all things,
but is himself to be judged by no one.
[16]"For who has understood the mind of
the Lord so as to instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.

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

Alleluia and Verse



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13–20 (Pew Bible, pg. 810)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th Chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[13][Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the
earth, but if salt has lost its taste,
how shall its saltiness be restored?
It is no longer good for anything except
to be thrown out and trampled under
people's feet.
[14]"You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
[15]Nor do people light a lamp and put it
under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives
light to all in the house.
[16]In the same way, let your light shine
before others, so that they may see your
good works and give glory to your Father
Who is in heaven.
[17]"Do not think that I have come to abolish
the Law or the Prophets; I have not come
to abolish them but to fulfill them.
[18]For truly, I say to you, until heaven and
earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot,
will pass from the Law until all is
accomplished. [19]Therefore whoever
relaxes one of the least of these
commandments and teaches others
to do the same will be called least in the
kingdom of heaven, but whoever does
them and teaches them will be called
great in the kingdom of heaven.
[20]For I tell you, unless your righteousness
exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will never enter the kingdom of
heaven."

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 — *Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service*

(LSB 848)



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt.
Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia
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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.

† *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.

OFFERTORY — *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (LSB 955)



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80, Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010
Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



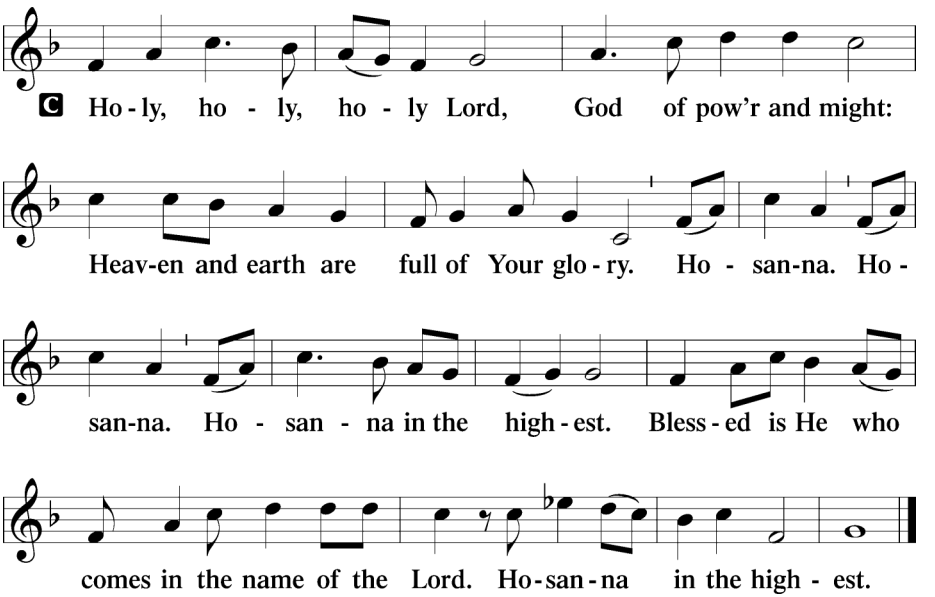
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for You are the King of glory. You, Who are Light inaccessible, sent Your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our lives to be a light among us, the light of Your grace and truth. In obedience, He took on our flesh to live and grow as a son of Adam. Obedient in all things, He taught the truths of Your kingdom, stretching out His hands in suffering that He might free from suffering all those who call on Your name. Obedient even unto death, You freed Him from death and won for Yourself a holy people. For all this, we give You our thanks, O God, as we live in the promise that He will come again to share with us the great feast of Your heavenly kingdom.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Words of Institution

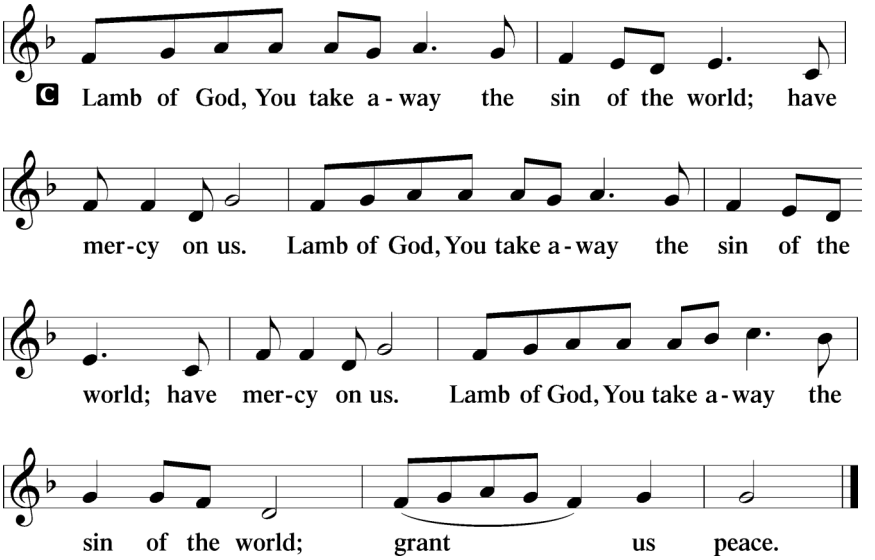
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed…

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

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

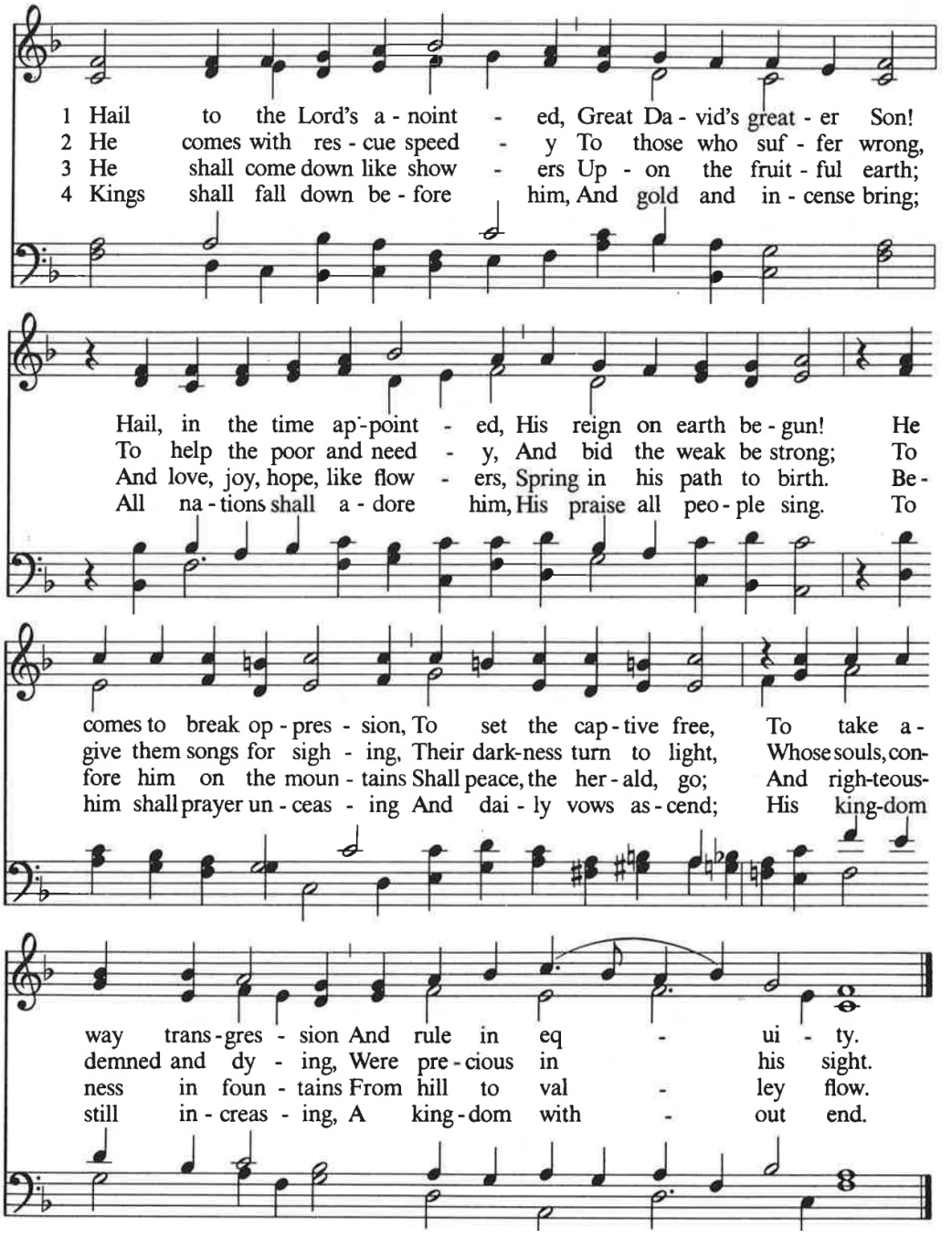
Receiving Holy Communion

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 — *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* (LBW 87)



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854
Tune: Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN
76 76 D

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (LSB 411)



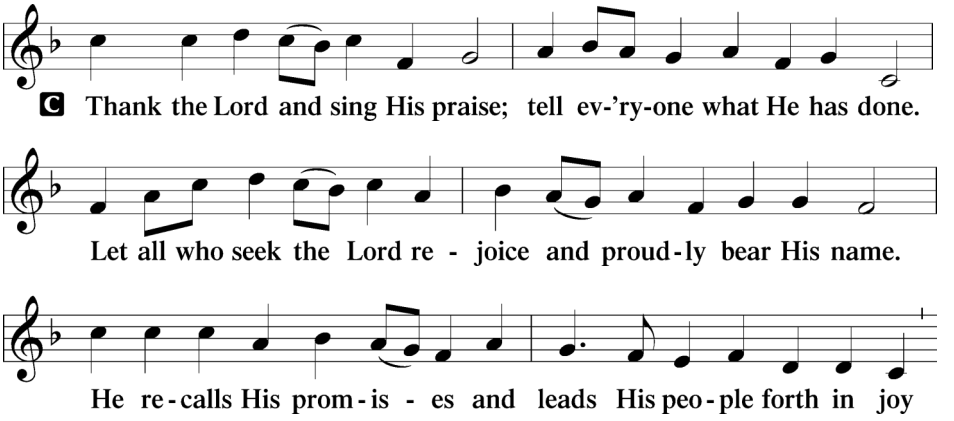
Text and tune: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934–2025
Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *This Little Light of Mine* (TFBF 65)



African American Spiritual. Reprinted/streamed with permission OneLicense #A701734.

Thank the Lord



Post-Communion Collect

P Holy God, by Your grace we have beheld the Lord:
we have touched the bread of life; we have drank from the cup of salvation;
we have tasted Your goodness.
May what we have received this day strengthen us in faith that we may walk
in love for You and for each other, through Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT

Benediction

P May God make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth 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 — *Forth in Thy Name, O Lord. I Go* (LBW 505)



5 For thee delightfully employ
Whate'er thy bounteous grace has giv'n,
And run my course with even joy,
And closely walk with thee to heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley. Tune: Orlando Gibbons. Reprinted/streamed with permission OneLicense #A701734.

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



UPCOMING AT GRACE

- *Sunday, February 15*—Discipleship Pathway Step 4 Launch

- *Wednesday, February 18*—Ash Wednesday (12pm & 7pm Services)

- *Thursday evenings beginning February 19* —Witness Workshop
  Contact dco.anna.voelker@gracedurham.org for more info and for the book.

- *Wednesday Evenings beginning February 25*
  Lenten Simple Supper (6:15pm) and Midweek Prayer Service (7pm)

- *Sunday, March 1*—Ministry Mingle (following Worship)

- *May 9-16*
  Puerto Rico Mission Trip—If you are interested, please reach out to Deaconess Anna at dco.anna.voelker@gracedurham.org.

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

SERVING YOU TODAY

Ushers
David Pittman
Tom McGill,
Acolyte

Communion Assistants
Beverly Hudgins
Noah Voelker

Altar Guild
Amy Robertson

Reader
Joe Milko

Greeter
Kathy Pittman

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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Meeting ID: 847 8043 7557

Passcode: 9196826030

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