

**If any want to  
become my followers,  
let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross  
and follow me.**

Mark 8:34, NRSV

## **THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

February 25, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Thornville, Ohio

### **VISITORS**

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We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We're glad you are here.

### **OUR WORSHIP**

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Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. In turn, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

### **PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

### **PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION**

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*We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen*

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW SETTING 1

*Watchword: I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations. – Genesis 17:7 NRSV*

## PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER

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### *Confession and Absolution*

#### INVOCATION

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*The people please stand.*

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

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P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

#### ABSOLUTION

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*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given us his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God and bestows on them his Holy Spirit. All who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*



### *Gathering*

#### ENTRANCE HYMN

*Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*

Green Book 93

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#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

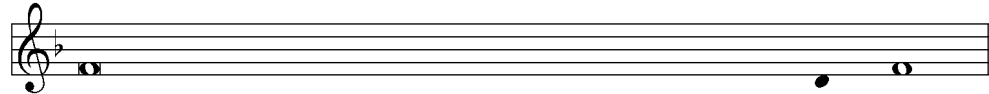
**C: And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices



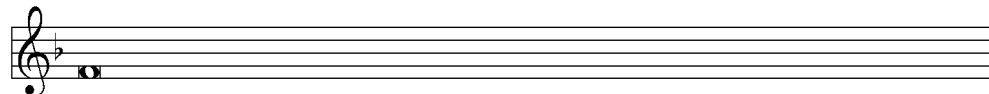
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



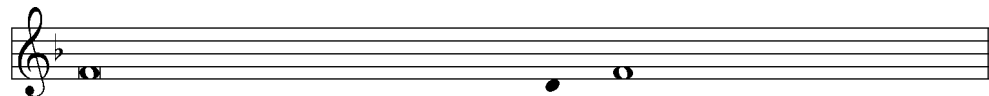
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



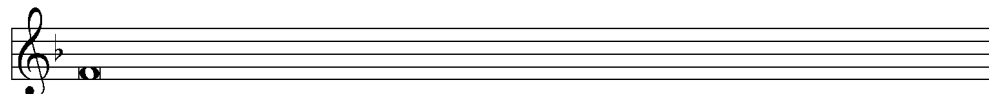
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



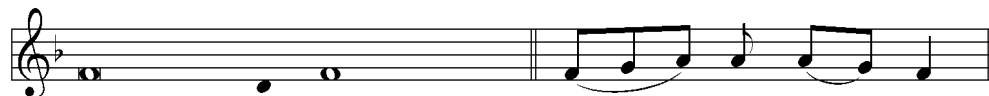
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

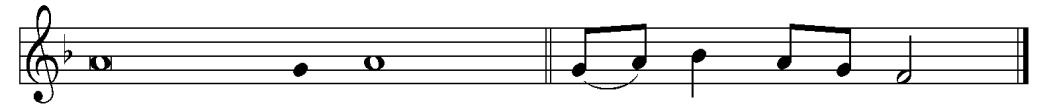


let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. C A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



C The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; 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 people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

L: A reading from Genesis.

*From a man 99 years of age, God promises a multitude of nations.*

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>15</sup>And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your

wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

*Psalm 22:23-30*

*The verses are chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.*



<sup>23</sup>For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his | face from them;\* but when they cry to | him he hears them.

<sup>24</sup>**My praise is of him in the | great assembly;\* I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship him.**

<sup>25</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the | Lord shall praise him:\* “May your heart | live forever!”

<sup>26</sup>**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord,\* and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.**

<sup>27</sup>For kingship belongs | to the Lord;\* he rules o- | ver the nations.

<sup>28</sup>**To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;\* all who go down to the dust | fall before him.**

<sup>29</sup>My soul shall live for him; my descend- | ants shall serve him;\* they shall be known as the | Lord’s forever.

<sup>30</sup>**They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn\* the saving deeds that | he has done.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Romans 4:13-25*

L: A reading from Romans.

*By faith in Jesus Christ, who was delivered up and raised from the dead, we share in the promise God made to Abraham.*

<sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>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,

<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.

<sup>20</sup>No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup>who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE VERSE

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*The people please stand.*



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.

## THE GOSPEL

*Mark 8:31-38*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.



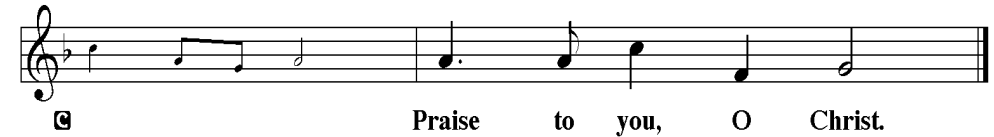
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

<sup>34</sup>And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it profit a man to gain

the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup>For what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup>For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Be Thou My Vision*

Blue Book 776

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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*The people stand.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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*After each petition:*

*A: As we travel our Lenten Journey, 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.**



## The Liturgy of Holy Communion

### THE PEACE

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P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.*

### OFFERING

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*Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged.*

*Choir Anthem (10:30 only): "To Calvary"*

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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*The people stand.*

**☩** 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.

### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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**☩** The Lord be with you. **☩** And al - so with you.  
**☩** Lift up your hearts. **☩** We lift them to the Lord.  
**☩** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**☩** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

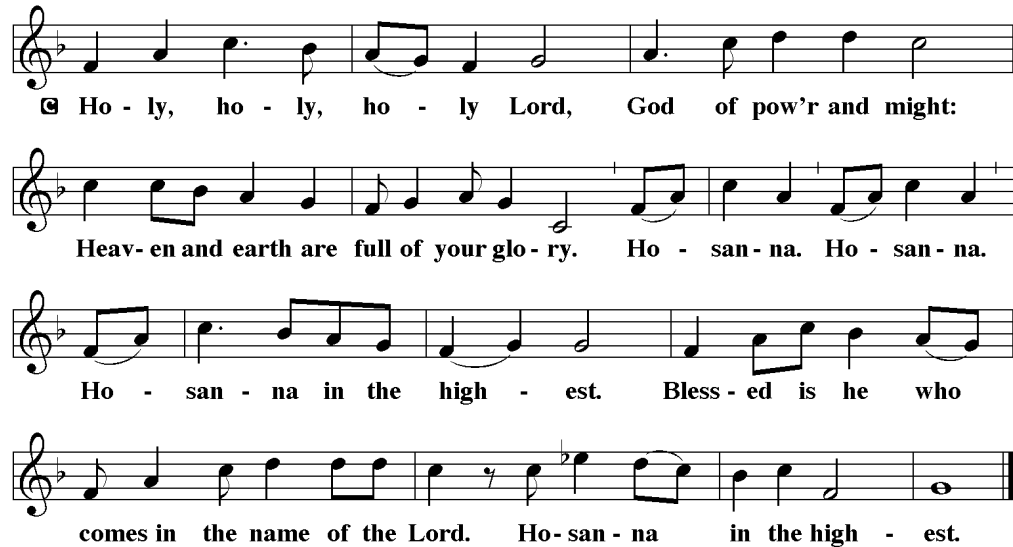
## THE PREFACE

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P: It is indeed right .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS

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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.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

**C: Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## THE FRACTION

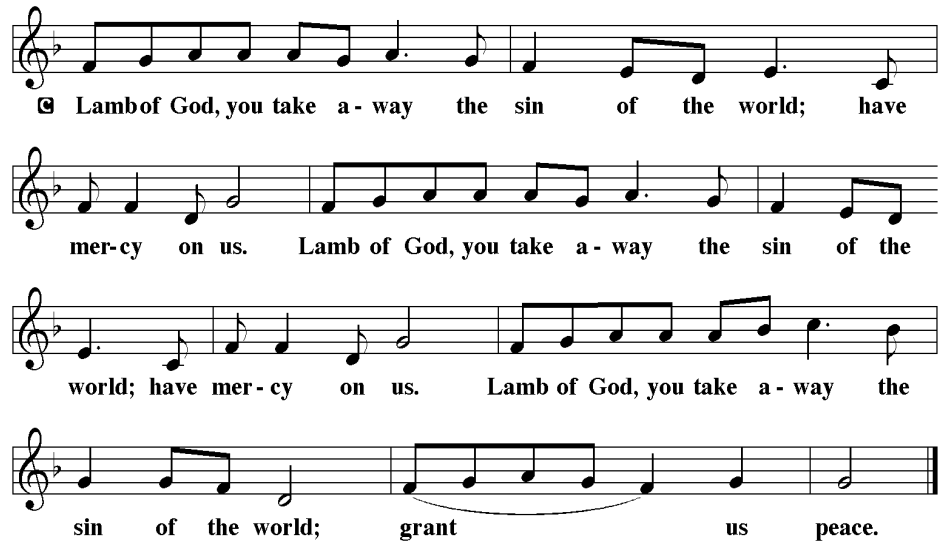
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P: Our Lord Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

**C: Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The people may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



☞ 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.*

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

*Hymns during distribution: Green Book 104, 98, 95*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*The people please stand.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful-filled.  
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the  
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry 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



## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

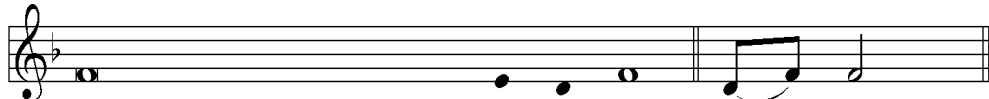
C: Amen.



*Sending*

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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Almighty God, Father, † Son,  
and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. A - men

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN    *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*    Green Book 99

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## THE POSTLUDE

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*We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.*

## PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

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*Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen*

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

65 E. Columbus St.

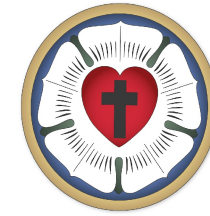
Thornville, OH 43076

(740) 246-6576

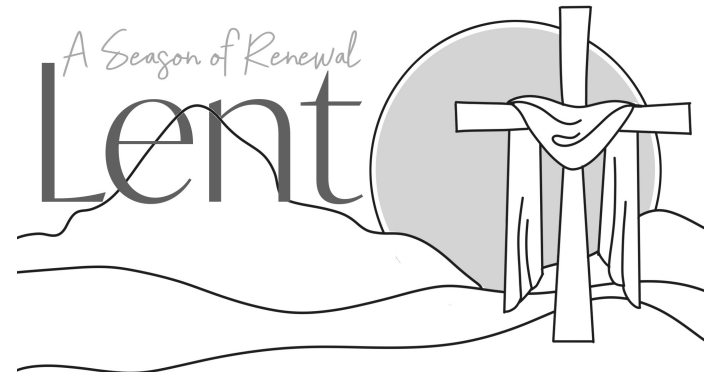
office@gracethornville.org

www.gracethornville.org

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



**COMMEMORATIONS:**

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As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

Feb. 25 Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921

Mar. 1 George Herbert, priest, 1633

Mar. 2 John Wesley, 1791; Charles Wesley, 1788; renewers of the Church

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 3 LENT (MARCH 3)**

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Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Psalms 19

John 2:13-22