

**H**is father saw him and...ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Luke 15:20



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025 | 8:00 and 10:30am

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

### VISITORS

---

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

---

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

---

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

---

*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: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. – John 12:24 ESV*

## PRELUDE | WELCOME | OPENING PRAYER

---

### Confession and Absolution

#### INVOCATION

---

*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

---

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

---

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

---

*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given 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 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Green Book 499

---

*Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center aisle at this time.*

#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

---

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

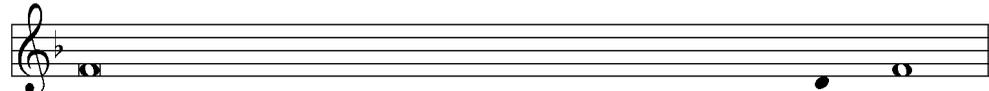
**C: And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices



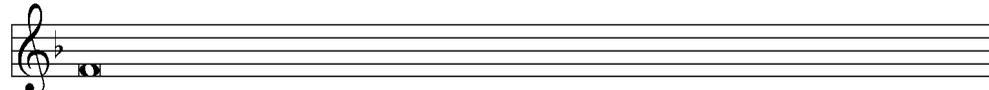
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



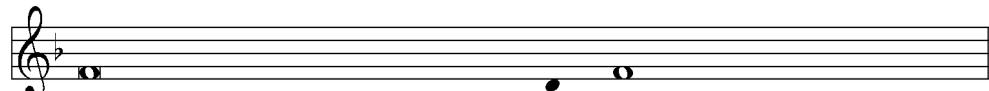
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



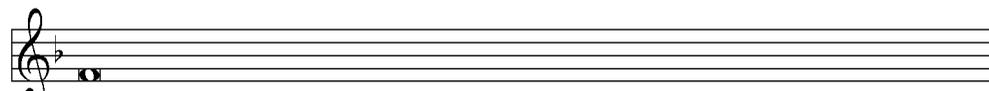
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



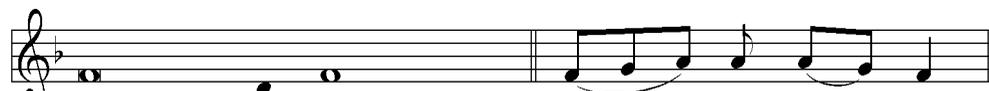
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



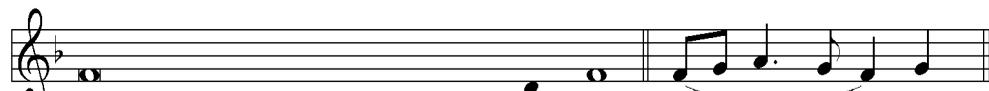
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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

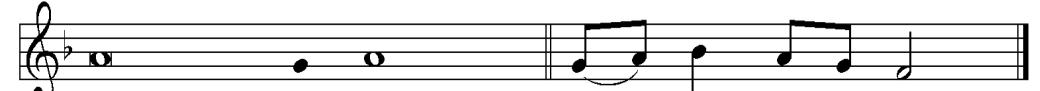


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



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

**P:** Let us pray. God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ 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

*Joshua 5:9-12*

**L:** A reading from Joshua.

*God's people begin a new chapter in their lives. They observe the Passover meal and remember God's action for them. No longer will they rely on manna to feed them from above. They will eat the produce of the land.*

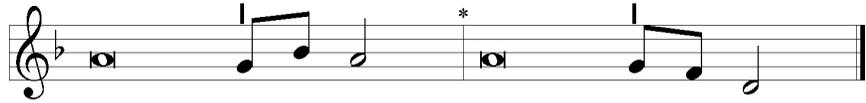
<sup>9</sup>And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho.

<sup>11</sup>And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

**L:** The Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

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



<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,\* and whose sin is | put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,\*  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,\*  
because of my groaning | all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;\*  
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my | sin to you,\* and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

<sup>6</sup>**I said, "I will confess my transgressions | to the Lord."\*\*  
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.**

<sup>7</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;\*  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

<sup>8</sup>**You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;\*  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.**

<sup>9</sup>"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;\*  
I will guide you | with my eye.

<sup>10</sup>**Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;\* who must  
be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."**

<sup>11</sup>Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;\* but mercy embraces those  
who trust | in the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;\* shout for joy,  
all who are | true of heart.**

L: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

Paul reminds us of how Christ Jesus has switched places with us; his righteousness becomes ours, and our sin becomes his. Henceforth, we live as ambassadors for Christ for others to hear the good news.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.      C: **Thanks be to God.**

### THE VERSE

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

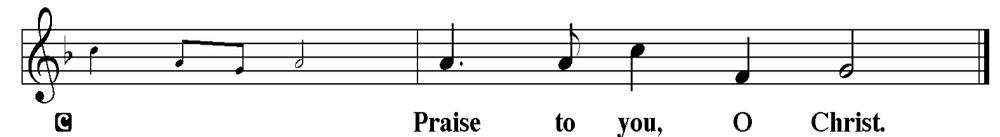


<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received

him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*The people may be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Tom Jacobson

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Were You There*

Green Book 92

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

*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

---

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

---

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

---

*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. Music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.*

*Choir Anthem (10:30 only): "Softly and Tenderly"*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

---

*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

---

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

**C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Ⓟ 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

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

## THE SANCTUS

☩ 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

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

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

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

---

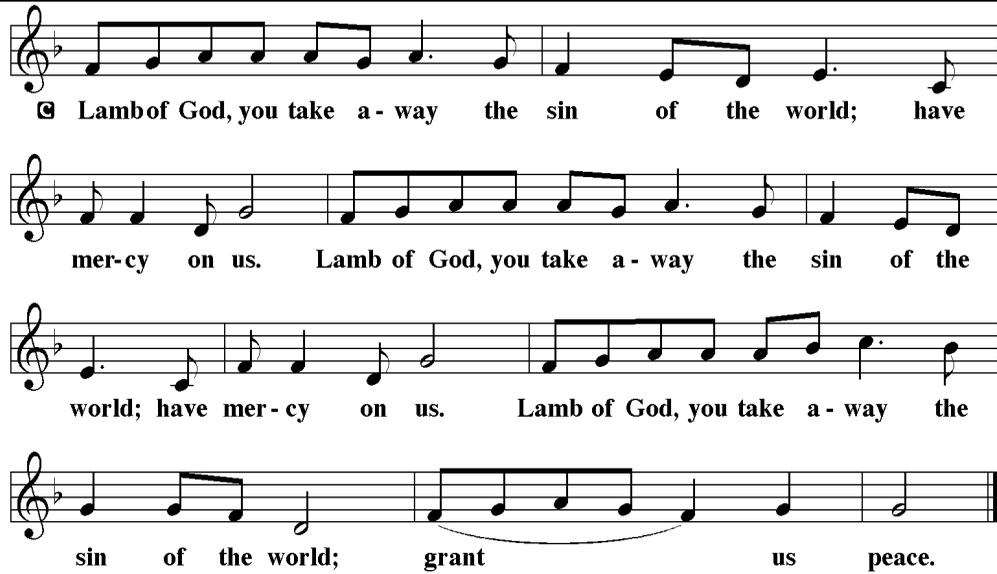
P: Our Lord Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

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 305, 448*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

---

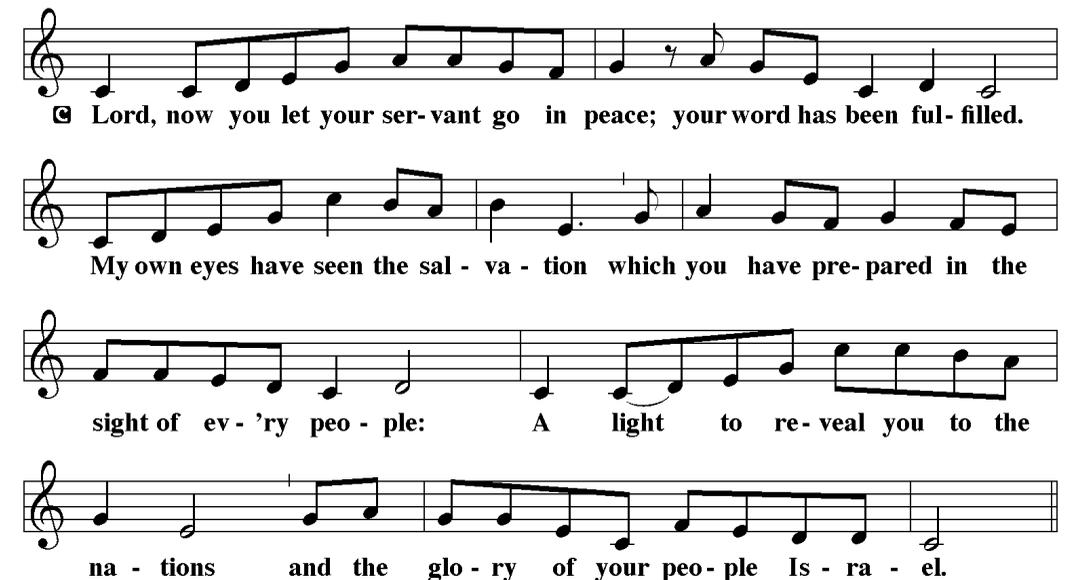
*The people please stand.*

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**

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



*Sending*

**THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

Ⓟ 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**

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

Green Book 104

**THE POSTLUDE**

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

**PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP**

*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

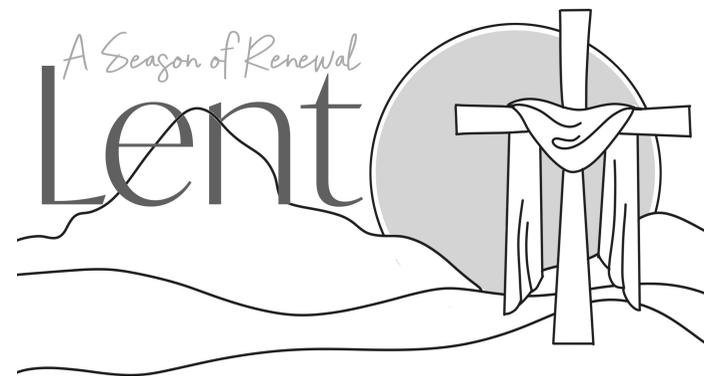
office@gracethornville.org

www.gracethornville.org

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



**COMMEMORATIONS:**

---

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:

Mar. 31 John Donne, priest, 1631

April 6 Albrecht Dürer, painter, 1528; Michelangelo Buonarroti, artist, 1564

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 5 LENT (APRIL 6)**

---

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8