

**PRAYER SERVICE
MARCH 27, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.

¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹²I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many —
terror all around! —
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God."

God loves you all the time
And all the time God loves you.

ANTHEM

Be Merciful, O LORD

Joncas

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.

Amen.

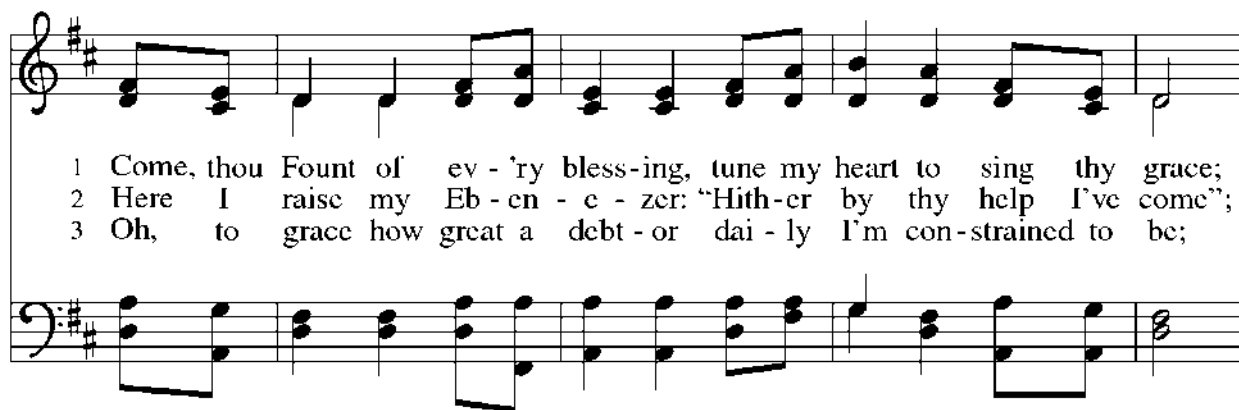
Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.

In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.

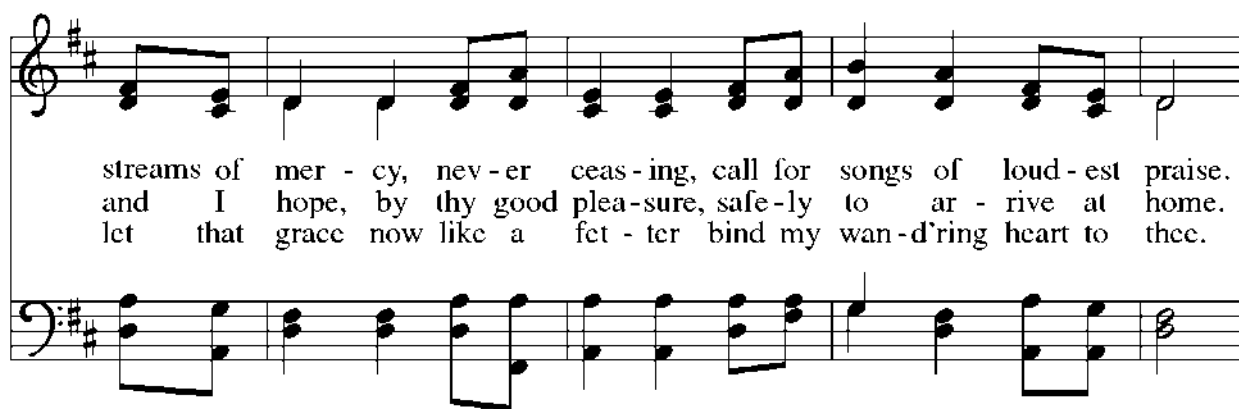
In ✝ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.



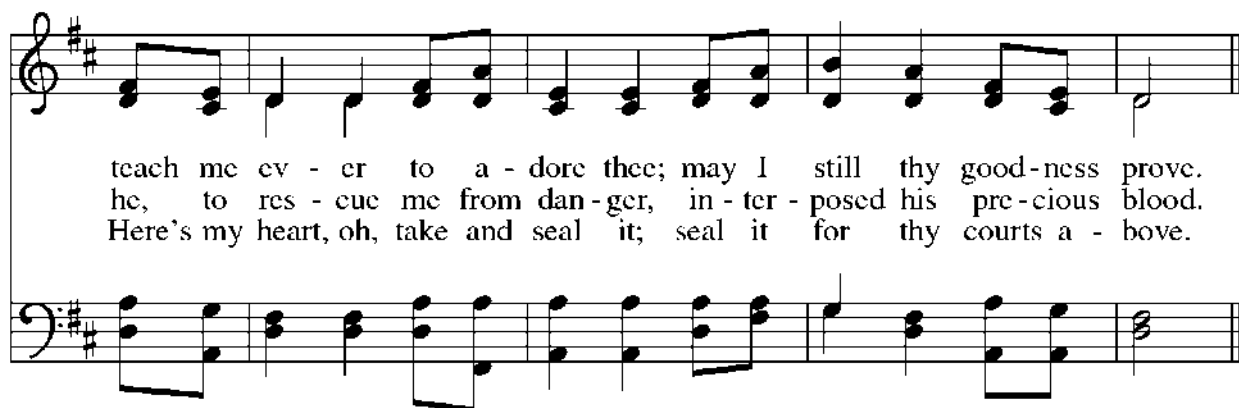
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

OPENING DIALOGUE

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Lord have mercy.

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. **Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

(read responsively)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

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

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do 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."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

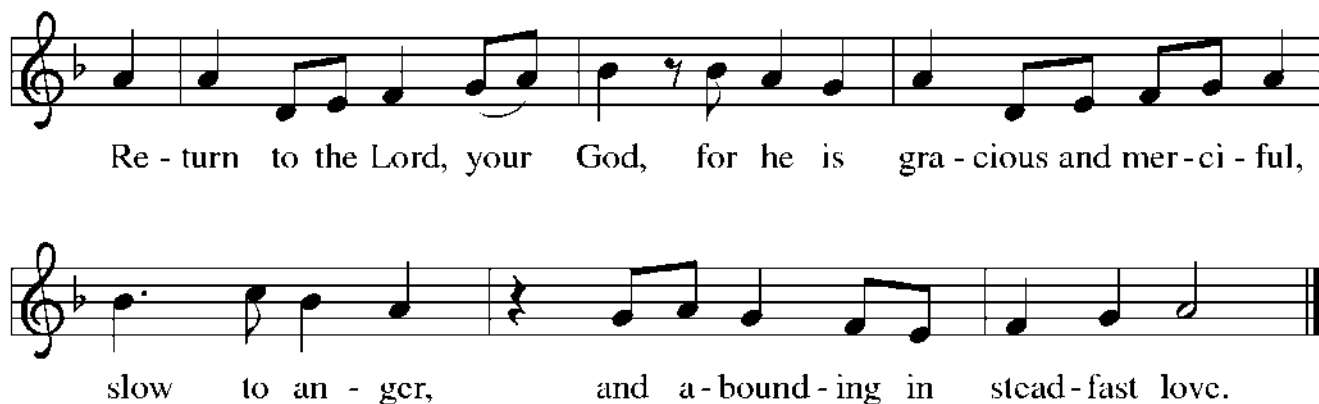
SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The gospel according to St. Luke the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it,

and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

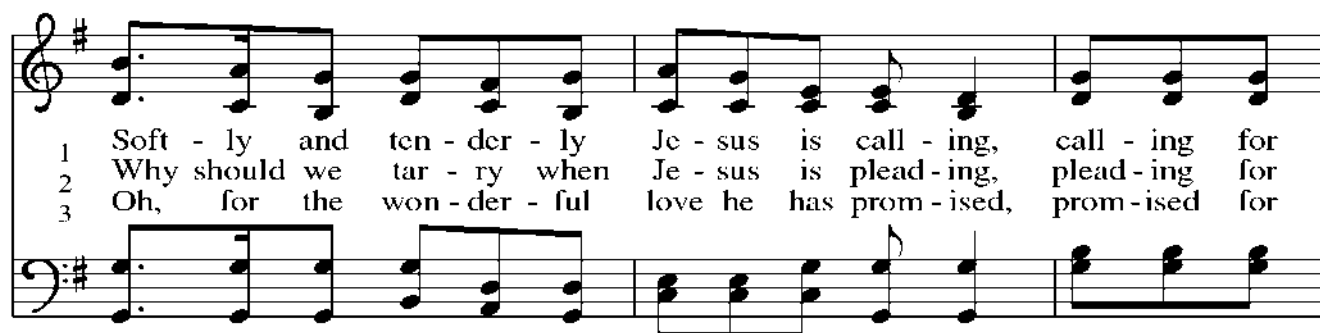
THE MESSAGE

Pastor Tara Magoon

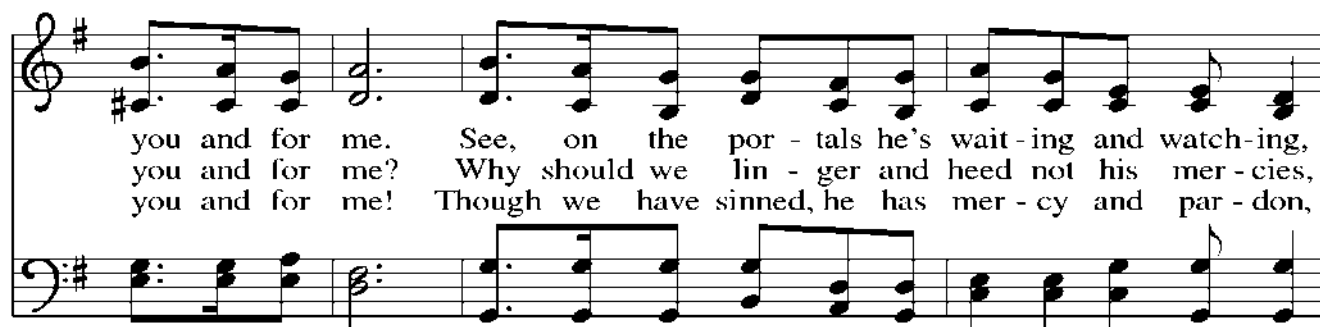
PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

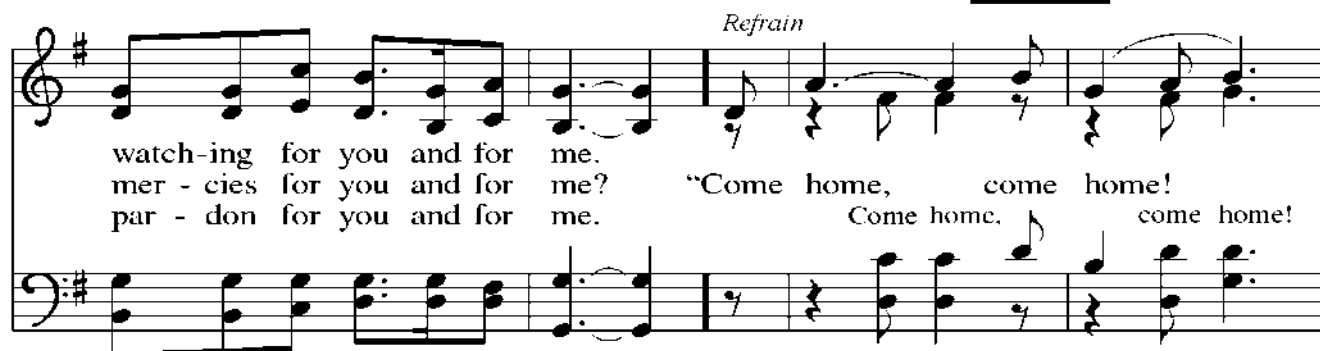
And also with you.



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



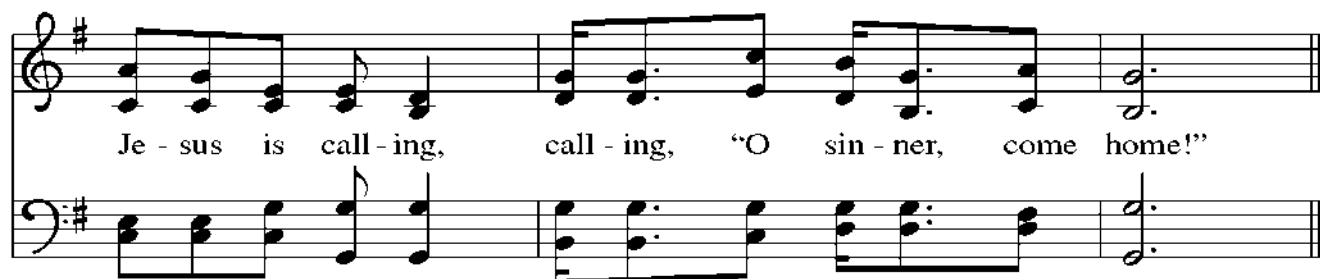
you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit

born of the virgin Mary,

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,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

And he will come 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict (*especially*). Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast
where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey.
Take and be filled.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

Communion will be received at the head of the Sanctuary. Starting with the section closest to the sound room and worshippers may make their way to leaders at the head of the Sanctuary and receive the communion elements. Elements at in-person worship are wine and juice made with grapes. Please let leaders know if you require gluten-free bread.

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or	Jew,	ser - vant	or	free,
2	Man - y	the	gifts,	man - y	the	works,
3	Grain for	the	fields,	scat-tered	and	grown,



wom-an	or	man,	no	more.
one in	the	Lord	of	all.
gath-cred	to	one	for	all.

Refrain

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

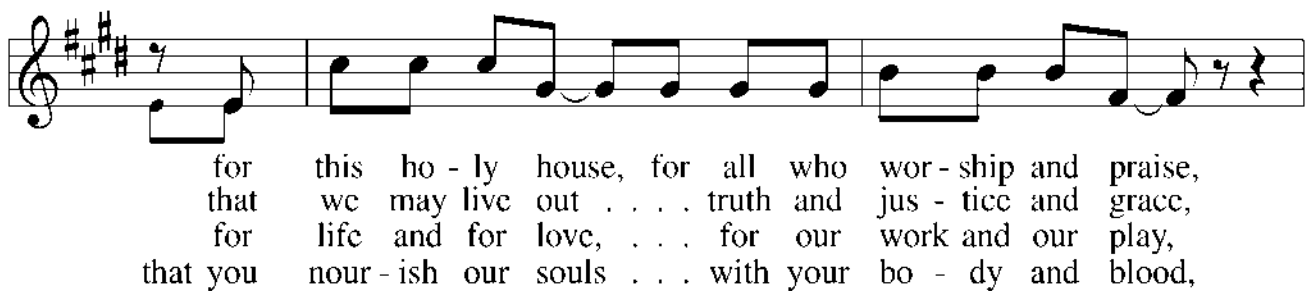
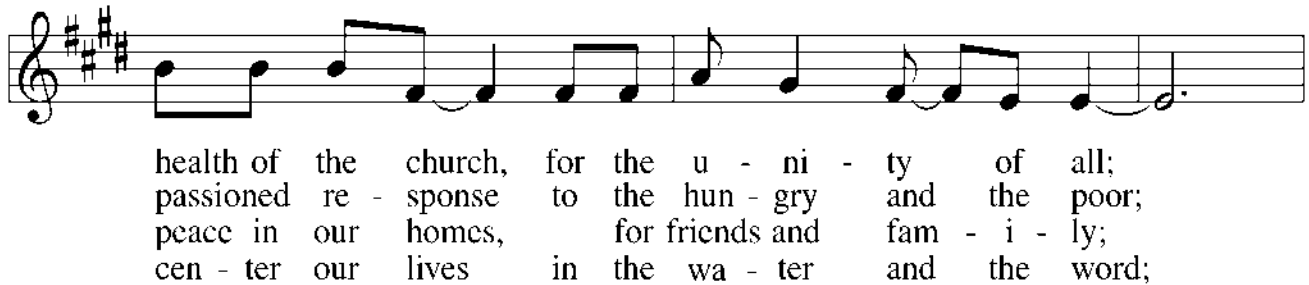
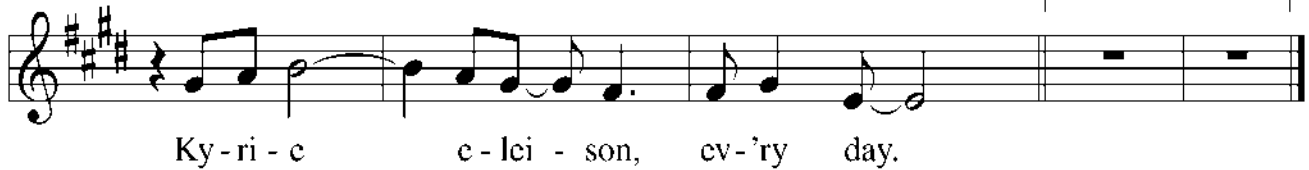
Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.

Amen.

BLESSING

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always

Amen.

Refrain*Last time**Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.

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April Anniversary Collection!

Our 50th anniversary celebration continues in April as we celebrate Holy Week and Easter in worship and support Lutheran Community Services (LCS) by filling up their shelves for their Food Farmacy program.

Are you thinking wait - I haven't heard about that program. And didn't you spell it wrong?

It is a (relatively) new partnership with Christiana Care to provide healthy food to participants who have chronic health conditions. The participants will receive access to primary care, behavioral health, nutritional counseling and a community health worker through Christiana-Care. LCS will provide healthy food for the whole family through a mobile pantry model. You can get more information at lcsde.org.

So what can we do? LCS has provided us with a list of 15 pantry items that we can donate to enhance the fresh food that LCS provides. We will be collecting them throughout April with the hope to deliver what was donated the week of April 25th. That gives us 4 Sundays!

Because April 1st is April Fools Day (not a recognized church celebration!) we thought we would start with donations that are a little nutty and fruity! These 5 things are on the list: No Salt Cashews, No Salt Pecans, No Salt Almonds, No sugar added Craisins and Crystal Light (or other no sugar powder drinks).

Donation bins will be available in the atrium and we will let you know how we are doing each week. We are thinking big - like 50 of each item in honor of our 50 years of Grace.

Any questions please contact Lynne Luetzgen (lcluetzgen@aol.com or 610-420-8051).

Grace Vacation Bible School is Set for June 12th-16th, 2022

Join us on the ultimate quest for God's great light as we explore Adventure Island during VBS this year! This free program welcomes Preschool and Elementary children in our community to join Grace Lutheran Church in-person from Sunday June 12th to Thursday June 16th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Save the Date! Registration to open next month. Interested in volunteering? Send an email to gracelutherandevbs@gmail.com.





Funniest Driveway Story

Grace's parking lot originally had two entrances, one from Graves Road and another from Route 41. When the traffic light was installed at the corner, we closed off the entrance to the highway, keeping the driveway off of Graves Road. One day a Delmarva Light-Power Company truck, towing a new long wooden power pole, got stuck crosswise in the ditch along the highway as he tried to pull into the parking lot where the entrance had been. The pole of course closed both lanes of the road in the process. Driver's comment - "There was a driveway there the last time I came this way."

- Submitted by Marcia Seehusen

"Grace has a rich history of plays and dance. If you have any home videos of those performances, in any format, please share them with us! Email glcde.pub@gmail.com."

Each week during Grace's 50th year we will feature a new story about Grace Lutheran Church, shared by its members and friends. We would love to include your favorite memories of Grace! Send a short video or written story to glcde.pub@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!!! From the 50th Anniversary Planning Team

Thank you to all who participated in Grace's kick-off event on Sunday, March 13th for our 50th Anniversary year. It was a joyous event to have the sanctuary overflowing. It was nice to see so many faces from Grace's past who have so many stories to tell. We were honored to have Bishop Gohl join Pastor Tara to help us celebrate this momentous event. Please stay tuned to the Grace News for future anniversary events for next month and throughout this joyous 50th year.

Prayers for March 27

TODAY we pray for:

For the family and friends of Mike Goyda as they mourn his death on Friday, March 18
Lois
Delores Beatty
Dan Celia
Dorothy Dzuris

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Joan Snyder; Ed and Erika Burke; Angie Wasgatt; Bob & Louise Ench; Vera Wagenfuhr; Polly Gillis; Kathy Long; Gener Ernst; Lis Verbeck; Lois Snyder; Gretchen Platz; Nanci Hunsinger; Claire Schoening; Chuck Loomis; Gretchen Platz;
John, Lena, Jurgen, Rich, Debbie, Ursula, Frank; Bruce Berentson; Ron Walker, Will & Muretta; Linda & Bill; Paul & Judy Freys; Seth Weaver, Julia Knight, Jim Dadey, Gabby Schiavone; Jenny; Claire; Debbie, Ben, Nancy Miller; Phil & Marilee Calabrese; Brian; Allen Whitley; Barbara Lynn Grabher; Kyle; Bill Smith; Leslie, Jack Baskow; Claudia and Geof Bromfield, John Worrell; John Deaton; Joan Sandstorm; Delores Sipe; Doug Price; Bob Waller; Kent Hardel; Howerin; Marcia Burton; Gina Clay
For the Caregivers.
For our bishops; Elizabeth Eaton, Bill Gohl
For the Dean of the Delmarva Conference; Pastor Paige Evers
For our staff; Pastor Tara Magoon, Susan Wells Allen, Jordan Irazabal, Louis Jones
For leaders & congregations of the Delmarva Conference of the Delaware-Maryland Synod
For all pastors and church leaders
For our country; the United States, leaders and citizens.

To request or update prayers, please call the church office (302-239-6481)

8:30am

Assisting Minister: Mandy Munson/
Hope Munson

Greeter/Usher: Jim Foskett

Usher: Larry Matchen

Reader: Penny Matchen

Sound: Greg Munson

Nursery: Kris McMahan, Gage McMahan

11:00am

Assisting Minister: Beth Fenner

Greeter/Usher: Pat Kizuka

Usher: Walt Lumley

Reader: Kathy Lumley

Sound: Gerry Teig

Counters: Gerry Teig, Jane Foskett

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, DE 19707 Office: 302-239-6481

Email: Office@gmail.com Website: glcde.org

New Capital Campaign for Grace

The flat roof that is over our original core building is 45 years' old, despite having a normal lifespan of 25+ years. Our roof maintenance contractor has been recommending roof replacement to address the many leaks that have occurred over the last few years. Understandably, we have avoided this as long as possible due to the cost, which was recently estimated at nearly \$100,000. In addition, we have an HVAC unit that will likely need replacing in the next few years with a previous estimate of almost \$10,000.

Council had started accruing a Major Repairs fund to address smaller projects like the HVAC, but not such a large expenditure like the roof. Consequently, a new Capital Campaign is needed to address the roof. A Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Consecration Sunday on May 1 to provide further details and bring a vote for approval of this expenditure before the congregation. A detailed agenda will be published at a later date. We do not anticipate needing the full amount for the roof from this capital campaign, but we will need it promptly to have the work completed in a timely fashion to avoid any potential further maintenance work. Any contributions you can provide now will enable our long-term mission for Grace in our next 50 years!

Mark Teasley
Church Council President



Hip Hip Hooray!

The **Ladies Lunch Bunch** will meet once again on Thursday, May 5th at 12:30pm in Grace Social Hall. The hostesses for the May meeting will be Janet Enslen and Toni Durandetta. Please RSVP to Janet Enslen@gmail.com or phone (302) 293-4494.

Bring a sandwich to share and a cold drink. The hostesses will provide salad, chips and dessert. Decaf coffee and hot tea will be available. Devotions and time for socialization are planned and we will end with prayer and circle and singing our Friendship song.

Looking forward to seeing you once again and please feel free to bring a friend!

Easter for the World!

Many UD international students are curious about Easter and would love being invited into an American home for a traditional Easter meal. Would you include one or more of these delightful global guests in your family's resurrection joy? Help them see our risen Savior's love and power in action! If you can help, please contact Rick Gray at 302-367-4994 or rick.gray@ruf.org

FAMILY PROMISE

The next week that Grace will host Family Promise will start on Easter Sunday, April 17th and run through Saturday, April 23rd. As with the last times, we will be providing dinners for the families at the Jesus House. We will be reaching out to get volunteers closer to that date.

Thanks in advance. Carol Lertola & Jane Teasley

