

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 26, 2025

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper... *The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. The purple cup is grape juice. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"Trumpet Tune"

arr. S. D. Wolff

"O God Our Help in Ages Past"

Setting: P. Soulek

WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INSTALLATION OF LAY DEACON JON MOORE, 8:00 AM Service

Sit

P Dear brothers in Christ, you are to serve our Lord as a Lay Deacon. Hear what Holy Scripture has to say about those who serve in the Church:

⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load.

⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

A ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

P In the presence of God and of this congregation, I install you as Lay Deacon in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

P Let us pray. Almighty God our heavenly Father, through Your dear Son You have made us all Your witnesses. Enlighten by Your Holy Spirit all who speak to others the message of salvation through Jesus' blood and merit. Grant Your blessing upon Jon so that Your Word may reach out and bear much fruit for the growth of Your Church; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Acts 20:32; Psalm 71:5; Luke 10:2; Titus 3:4-5

P I commend you to God

C and to the word of His grace.

P For You, O Lord, are my hope,
C **my trust, O LORD, from my youth.**

P Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest
C **to send out laborers into His harvest.**

P When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,
C **He saved us.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us go to God in sincere trust in His great mercy.
Heavenly Father,
C **we confess all the times we have failed You. Forgive us, and help us to better serve You.**

P Lord Jesus,
C **we confess that we have not always told others of Your great love. Forgive us and give us strength and courage to speak about all that You have done.**

P O Holy Spirit,
C **renew our hearts and minds so that we focus on the gift of this day as well as the promise of eternal life. Forgive us for the past and move us into the future that awaits us.**

P Our Father sent His Son, who died and rose for you, and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in your hearts. He loves you; nothing will stand in the way of His welcoming you into the courts of heaven. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

LSB 809



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



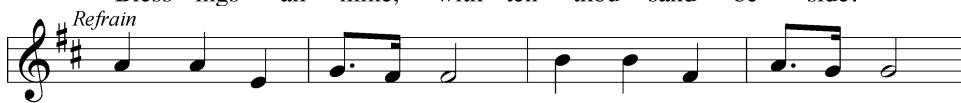
There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Refrain

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960, Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870–1957, Text: Public domain, Tune: Public domain

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

- P** Let us pray. Almighty God, You called Titus to the work of pastor and teacher.
- C** **Make all shepherds of Your flock diligent in preaching Your holy Word so that the whole world may know the immeasurable riches of our Savior, Jesus Christ,**
- P** who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

BENEFIT OF A LECTIONARY

Utilizing a historic Lectionary offers significant advantages over allowing for spontaneous sermon topics in church services. A structured Lectionary fosters a deeper engagement with scripture, promoting a richer understanding of both Old and New Testament narratives. This holistic approach avoids the pitfalls of focusing solely on isolated passages, often resulting in misinterpretations or skewed theological perspectives.

Non-liturgical services frequently rely on a single scripture reading, which often forms the basis for the entire sermon. This practice can lead to a narrow interpretation, with the pastor potentially emphasizing only a tiny, potentially out-of-context portion of the text to support a pre-determined message. The result is a less nuanced and potentially inaccurate understanding of God's word.

Furthermore, the absence of a structured liturgical framework often contributes to a lack of familiarity with the Old Testament within many evangelical congregations. This neglect leads to a misconception that the Old Testament holds little relevance to contemporary Christian life. However, the Old Testament is integral to understanding the complete narrative of salvation history. Christ himself is revealed throughout the Old Testament, foreshadowed in its prophecies and exemplified in its narratives.

A well-structured liturgy, such as one employing a three-year lectionary, actively addresses this issue by systematically connecting Old Testament readings with their New Testament counterparts. This cyclical approach encourages a comprehensive understanding of biblical themes and their development throughout scripture, fostering a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of God's revelation. The consistent engagement with a broader range of scripture also mitigates the risk of focusing on the pastor's personal preferences or "hobbyhorses," ensuring a more balanced and theologically sound presentation of the Word.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 20:28–35

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S CHOIR, 11:00 AM

"Bind Us Together"

Led by Merna Ahlemeyer

THE EPISTLE READING

Titus 1:1–9

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

To Titus, my true child in a common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Titus 2:11

P Alleluia. The grace of God has appeared

C **bringing salvation for all people. Alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 10:1–9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

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

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

HYMN

"Preach You the Word"

LSB 586



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home To men who
2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task Your ser - vant
3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love Scat - ters a -
4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched And some be



like or like it not, The Word that shall en -
 bade us un - der - take: To preach Your Word and
 broad the good - ly seed, In - tent a - lone that
 choked and mat - ted flat, The sow - er sows; his



ture and stand When flow'rs and men shall be for - got.
 nev - er ask What pride - ful prof - it it may make.
 all may have The whole - some loaves that all men need.
 heart cries out, "Oh, what of that, and what of that?"

5 Of all his scattered plenteousness
 One-fourth waves ripe on hill
 and flat,
 And bears a harvest hundredfold:
 "Ah, what of that, Lord, what of
 that!"

6 Preach you the Word and plant it
 home
 And never faint; the Harvest Lord
 Who gave the sower seed to sow
 Will watch and tend His planted
 Word.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt., Tune: Rheinfelssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, 1666, Augsburg,
 Text: © 1971 The Franzmann Family. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811, Tune: Public domain

SERMON

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us go to God in prayer.
- A** God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace
- C** **that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives.**
- P** Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** Grant that Your kingdom come to us and expand.

C Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith

P that the number of faithful people may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things,

C that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will.

P Into Your merciful hands we commend [names . . . , and] all who are in need, always praying for them: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

LSB 955

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80, Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010 Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission:

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Titus, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have given us more than we can ever repay, including Your own Son. Gathered in His name, we ask You to strengthen our faith so that You alone are our true hope, our trust through the ages. Surround us with faithful people now as we celebrate this sacrament and until we all meet together in the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom. To You

alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven; give us this day
our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses**

**as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



G 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.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

LSB 633



1 At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di-vine Gives His
3 Where the pas-chal blood is poured, Death’s dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas-chal



our vic-tor-ious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa-cred blood for wine, Gives His bod-y for the feast—
an-gel sheathes the sword; Is-rael’s hosts tri-um-phant go
vic-tim, pas-chal bread; With sin-cer-i-ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight,
 You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
 Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise,
 And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!

△8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days:
 Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt., Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivanceice, Text and tune: Public domain

VOLUNTARY

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

setting: J. Weber

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 165



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 be 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 THANKSGIVING

- P** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood.
- C** **Keep us firm in the faith and guide us to use the resources You provide for Your people for years to come.**
- P** Gather us all together then to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

LSB 643

1 Sent forth by God’s bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,
The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.

The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,

The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing

To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt., Tune: Welsh Text: © 1964 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811
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Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

P Give thanks to God for saints who have gone before us and go in peace as you also serve the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Preach You the Word”

setting: J. Mueller

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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Worship:

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Adult Bible Study & Sunday School:

9:30 AM in Grace Hall

+

Pastor: Richard Willsea

Deaconess: Karen Suter

Organist: Patty Barnes