

**March 22, 2026**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*



# **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1600 Old Trolley Rd  
Summerville, SC  
29485-8275

Office:  
(843) 871-5444

E-mail:  
office@  
gracesummerville.org

Website:  
[www.gracesummerville](http://www.gracesummerville.org)  
.org

+

Divine Service:  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am  
*Sundays*

Adult Bible Study &  
Sunday School:  
9:30 am

+

Pastor:  
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:  
Karen Suter

Organist:  
Patty Barnes

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2026

## ✠ 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. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

### PRELUDE

"The Trumpet of Resounding Praise"  
"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

F. Ritter  
arr. D. Lasky

### WELCOME

*Stand*

### HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

**LSB 686**



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -  
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,  
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,  
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter  
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less  
 Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
 Bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I  
 How I'll sing Thy won-drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me  
 strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to  
 feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my  
 tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.  
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
 heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.  
 an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt.  
 Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 130:1-4*

- P** Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!
- C** O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- P** If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

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

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we cry to You from the depths of our sin. We were born into those depths and need Your Word to call us out of them. We have sinned against You with our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our inactions. We

**have lived according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. From the depths, we wait for You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, deliver our soul from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. 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.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. You are precious in His sight because Christ is in you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G Amen.**

### ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

#### INTROIT

*Psalm 116:1–4, 8; antiphon: v. 15*

**P** Precious in the sight of the LORD

**G is the death of His saints.**

**P** I love the LORD, because He has heard

**G my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

**P** Because He inclined His ear to me,

**G therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**

**P** The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

**G I suffered distress and anguish.**

**P** Then I called on the name of the LORD:

**G “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

**P** For You have delivered my soul from death,

**G my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P** Precious in the sight of the LORD

**G is the death of His saints.**

## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Ezekiel 37:1–14*

The Word is read...

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

**SR. CHOIR, 8:00 & 11:00 Services** "Thy Secret Place" Duet Dawn and Wayne Smith

In Thy secret place, Lord most high, in the secret place of the Almighty,  
I shall dwell in peace and in

Safety; I shall dwell in safety in His presence.

His wings shall be my refuge, My God, in Him I put my trust;

No evil shall befall me, no evil shall befall me.

In Thy secret place there is safety, I shall never fear the Noisome pestilence; I

I have made the Lord my Refuge, and His secret place my habitation.

To Thy secret place, Lord I Come, I shall dwell in safety in Thy presence; I will trust in

Thee, Thou my fortress; and

Thy truth shall be my shield And buckler.

Thy wings shall be my refuge, O God, in Thee I put my trust;

Thy wings shall be my refuge, no evil shall befall me.

He shall send His angels to Keep me, They shall watch And guard me from the fowler's  
snare.

He hath set His love upon me;

I shall praise and show Him my Salvation.

**P** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

**C** and with Him is plentiful redemption.

**P** Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

**C** O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

**P** If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

**P** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

**C** my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

**P** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

**C** and with Him is plentiful redemption.

**P** And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

**C** and with Him is plentiful redemption.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:1–11

The Word is read...

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

VERSE

John 11:25

**C** I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

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

The Word is read...

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

**HYMN**

“If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death”

**LSB 486**



1 If Christ had not been raised from death Our faith would be in vain,  
2 If Christ still lay with - in the tomb Then death would be the end,  
3 If Christ had not been tru - ly raised His Church would live a lie;



Our preach - ing but a waste of breath, Our sin and guilt re - main.  
And we should face our fi - nal doom With nei - ther guide nor friend.  
His name should nev - er - more be praised, His words de - serve to die.



But now the Lord is ris'n in - deed; He rules in earth and heav'n:  
But now the Sav - ior is raised up, So when a Chris - tian dies  
But now our great Re - deem - er lives; Through Him we are re - stored;



His Gos - pel meets a world of need— In Christ we are for - giv'n.  
We mourn, yet look to God in hope— In Christ the saints a - rise!  
His Word en - dures, His Church re - vives In Christ, our ris - en Lord.

Text: Christopher M. Idle, 1938  
Tune: Phillip Magness, 1963  
Text: © 1985 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811  
Tune: © 2003 Phillip Magness. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811

**SERMON**

*Stand*

## NICENE CREED

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Because the Lord has inclined His ear to us, let us call upon the One who delivers us in our time of need.

Lord of life, You look upon the ways in which sin has withered our existence, and You speak Your words of life over us. Bless all pastors, that they may speak that same word with the faithfulness of Ezekiel, for the benefit of Your church and her mission,

**C for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

**A** Loving Father, You claimed us as children in Holy Baptism, setting us free from the law of sin and death by sending Your own Son in the likeness of human flesh. Help us to forsake the ways of sinful flesh and to walk according to the Spirit who lives in us,

**C for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

**P** Fearless Lord, even in the threat of death You pursue those You love. Give us courage to follow You into those places where death taunts and persecution lingers. Help us to fix our eyes on the One who is the founder and perfecter of our faith,

**C for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

**A** Almighty God, precious in Your sight is the death of Your saints. Strengthen our leaders, our government, and all You have put in place to protect us, that they look upon every life entrusted to their protection with the same care,

**C for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

**P** Merciful Lord, You deliver those who cry to You from the depths of distress and anguish. Visit the sick, the dying, and the grieving, [*especially . . .*]. Bring them Your peace, especially as they might question Your ways and Your timing. Comfort them with the hope of life everlasting, when Your Word will restore their bodies again,

**C for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

**A** Receiving the fullness of Your Spirit and offering these prayers to You, O gracious Lord, we trust that You hear and answer us according to Your good and gracious will,

**C for Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Amen.**

Sit

**OFFERING**

**VOLUNTARY**

"The Lord is My Light"

D. Buck

8:00 & 11:00 Services: Duet: Dawn Smith, soprano, Wayne Smith, tenor

The Lord is my light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my

Life; of whom shall I be afraid?

For in the time of trouble he Shall hide me in his pavilion;

In the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me.

He openeth the ear, He sealeth Instruction in a dream, in a vision of the night when deep

Sleep falleth on man.

Therefore shall mine head be

Lifted up. I will sing praises unto the Lord.

Wait on the Lord!

Stand

**OFFERTORY**

LSB 176



What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



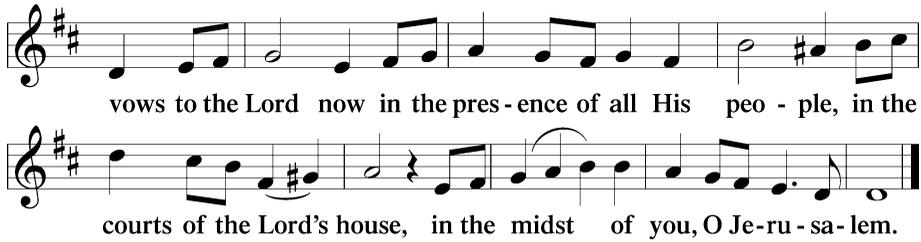
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



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.

## ✠ 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS

LSB 178



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. 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 had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. 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  $\text{✝}$  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  $\dagger$  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.
- G** **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**

- G** **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 180



**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, grant us peace.

*Sit*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

LSB 420



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a  
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might  
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing  
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,  
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,  
shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,  
 O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my  
 Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of  
 All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.  
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.  
 God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.  
 might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
 That from pain I might be free;  
 Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
 Thence I gain security;  
 Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
 Me to comfort in my anguish.  
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction  
 And hast borne it patiently,  
 Even death by crucifixion,  
 Fully to atone for me;  
 And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Thou didst choose to be tormented  
 That my doom should be prevented.  
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
 For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
 For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
 I will thank Thee evermore,  
 Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
 For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
 For that last triumphant cry,

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2, 5, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 3–4, 6): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis, Tune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt, Text and tune: Public domain

**VOLUNTARY**

"Christ the Life of All the Living"

setting: J.C. Bach



**C** 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** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

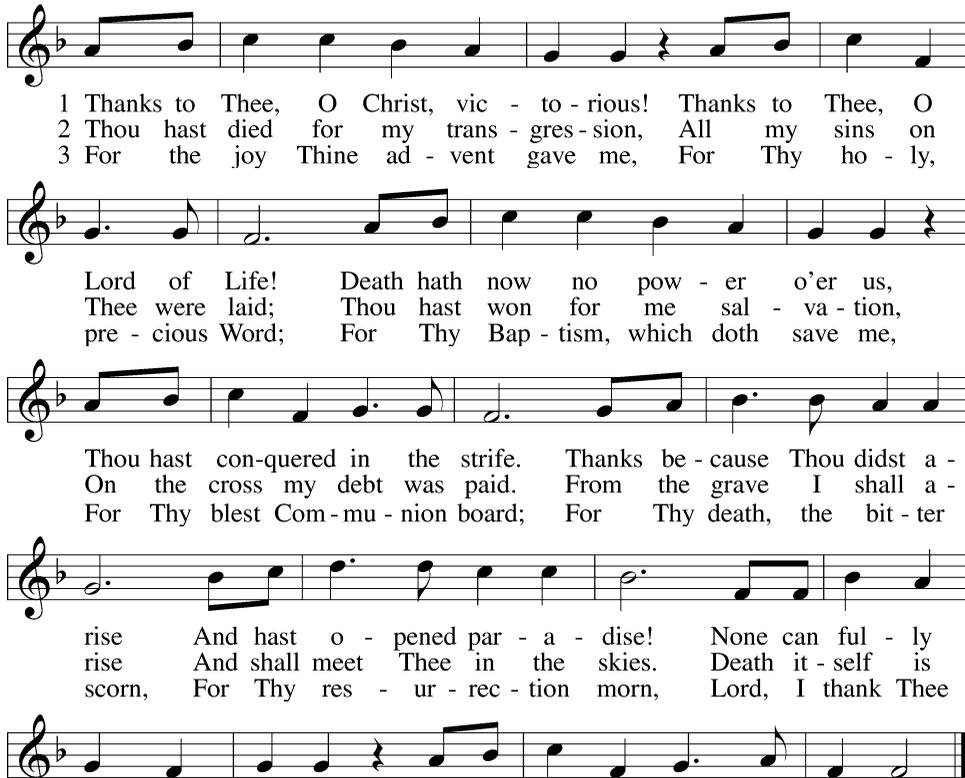
## BENEDICTION

- 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.
- G** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

“Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious”

LSB 548



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O  
2 Thou hast died for my trans - gres - sion, All my sins on  
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,

Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,  
Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me sal - va - tion,  
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,

Thou hast con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -  
On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -  
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter

rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly  
rise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death it - self is  
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee

sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.  
tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.  
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942  
Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Sit*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

arr. D. Wagner

## **Acknowledgements**

*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.*

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