

**Sunday,
March 19, 2023**

**9:30 AM
Worship Service**



Pastor Doug Widger

*Guest Musician:
Eric Bailey, Bagpiper*

Prelude: "The Sky Boat Song"

Eric Bailey, Bagpiper

Welcome and Prayer

Opening Music: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

**LSB #686
vs. 1-4**

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

Text & Music: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Share Grace

First Reading

Psalm 142

- 1 I cry aloud to the Lord ; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.
- 2 I pour out my complaint before him; before him I tell my trouble.
- 3 When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who know my way. In the path where I walk men have hidden a snare for me.
- 4 Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.
- 5 I cry to you, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."
- 6 Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.
- 7 Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-41

- 1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.
- 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
- 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.
- 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.
- 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
- 6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.
- 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.
- 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.
- 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.
- 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."
- 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.
- 17 Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."
- 34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.
- 35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- 36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."
- 37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."
- 38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.
- 39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."
- 40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"
- 41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Song: Amazing Grace

LSB #744, vs. 1, 3

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

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Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Connection Points

Offering

Offering Song: Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. (2x)

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. (2x)

Give Thanks! Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

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Communion

Communion Songs: Alpha and Omega

You are Alpha and Omega
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised
(repeat)

We give You all the glory
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised
(repeat)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

LSB #739
vs. 1-3

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

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O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus: O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

CHORUS (2x)

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
(Repeat)

CHORUS (2x)

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

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Prayers of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Ways to Follow Jesus

Benediction: *Romans 15:5-6...*

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sending Song: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to save
 Till on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live

 There in the ground His body lay
 Light of the world by darkness slain
 Then bursting forth in glorious Day
 Up from the grave He rose again
 And as He stands in victory
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 For I am His and He is mine
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ

 No guilt in life no fear in death
 This is the power of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No power of hell no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 Till He returns or calls me home
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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Postlude: "Highland Cathedral"

Eric Bailey, Bagpiper

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COMMUNION NOTES

At this time the common cup will not be used.
A traveling tray will be available for those who desire it.

We ask ourselves questions of examination:

- ◆ Do I believe that I am a sinner and am I sorry for my sins?
- ◆ Do I believe that Jesus is my Savior and that through faith in Him my sins are forgiven?
- ◆ Do I believe that in this meal I receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus, for the forgiveness of my sins, not just a symbol of it?
- ◆ Do I intend, with the help of God, to live a Christian life?

We welcome to the altar all who answer yes to these questions and believe as we do.

Those who have never communed with us before
are asked to speak to the Pastor or Elder before the service. If you're not ready to participate in the Lord's Supper with us, please feel free to come forward. Folding of your arms will indicate to the Pastors your desire to receive a blessing.



★ CAMP ★
LONE STAR

Grace Kids are attending summer camp June 11-16. Cost is \$400. Next payment is due March 5.

NOW RECRUITING:

Grace Kids Summer Sunday School Teachers for Preschool - Kindergarten and Grades 1-6.
Summer Sunday School begins June 4. Speak with Serena with questions.

CLASSES

for All Ages

Sunday Bible Classes

- 10:45 AM Jim Runzheimer's Bible Class - Fireside Room
- 10:45 AM Pastor Doug Widger's Class - Meeting Room 2
- 10:45 AM Biblical Parenting Sunday School - Library
- 10:45 AM Grace Youth Bible Study (Grades 7 - 12) - Youth Shed
- 10:45 AM Grace Kids Sunday School (preschool - grade 6) - GLEE Hallway

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 19, 2023

- 9:30 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 10:45 AM Bible Studies & Sunday School Classes

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

- 9:30 AM Braille (Cross of Christ) - Braille Room: MR1
- 4:30 PM Lenten Service - Sanctuary.

In this service for Week 4 of Lent, the place of the Passion is the Courtyard, outside of where Jesus is put on trial before the high priest and where Peter denies Jesus. We are called to confess that we often tend to distance ourselves from Christ, when we should be drawing closer to him. The meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with the Courtyard help us to grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us.

- 5:30 PM **Lenten Meal:** Hosted by Family Ministries
- Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwiches & Chips - Gym
- 6:30 PM **Lenten Service** - Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM **Embrace Life** - Meeting Room 2
- 6:30 PM **ESL Classes**
- 7:30 PM **Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary
- 8:30 PM **Praise Team Rehearsal** - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 23, 2023

- 6:00 PM Joybells Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Saturday, March 25, 2023

- 9:00 AM Altar Guild - Sanctuary

Sunday, March 26, 2023

- 9:30 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 10:45 AM Bible Studies & Sunday School Classes
- 11:00 AM Easter Egg & Goody Bag Stuffing - Gym

Pastor Doug's new Bible Study starts May 12th on 1 Thessalonians.

God's people have always been under some form of attack. In first century Thessalonica the attack started with physical threats. Today God's people also face threats. We'll discuss how God's word through Paul empowered early Christians to live beyond fear of suffering. How did God rescue, reward, resurrect, and redeem His early church and what can we learn for today? Please join Pastor Widger in MR2 for this verse by verse



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Pastor Doug Widger, Lead Shepherd
Pastor Steve Roth, Community Care
Dr. Serena Pace, DCE, Director of Ministries
Jennifer Chavez, Director of Early Education
Rev. Dr. Russell Hildebrandt, Pastor Emeritus

Glorify our Lord by
adorning the Altar
with Easter Lilies.

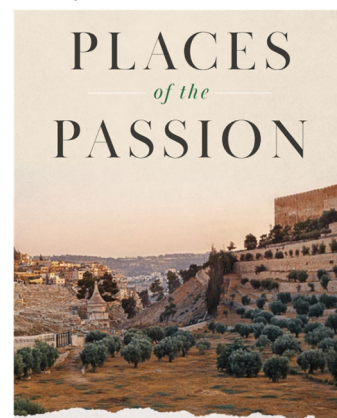
Easter Lilies

Sign up today.
(\$15 each)



Lent Series - Places of the Passion

Our Wednesday night Lenten services will take place through March 29th. Services will be held at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm, with a meal in between at 5:30 pm in the Gym. Devotions for the series are available in the Narthex.



ELDERS AND THEIR ASSIGNED MEMBERS

Ernie Owens	A-B
Hank Jacobs	C-E
David Swille	F-H
Mike Kennedy	I-L
Mike Curtis	M-O
Ernie Owens	P-R
Joe Masterson	S
Jim Schmidt	T-Z

Head Elder:
Joe Masterson

The Holy Smokers are ready to take orders for Easter hams, sausage and pork loins. The pork loin is a new addition this year. The average weight of a whole loin is between 8-10 pounds uncooked. If a whole loin is too large for you, you can order a half loin for half price.



Signup sheet will be in the Narthex or call Ernie Owens 817-247-0747 or Brian Rukavina 817-229-9703. Orders need to be pre-paid. Hams and pork loins are \$40. Sausage (mild or spicy) is \$8 per ring or 2 for \$15.

Place checks in the envelope or cash can be given to Cynthia or Jenna. Make checks out to **Grace Lutheran Church, memo as Holy Smokers.**

The deadline to place your order is NOON, Sunday,

April 2. Pickup will be Saturday afternoon, April 8. We will call with pickup time.

Anyone interested in joining the Holy Smokers please join us Saturday morning, April 8 around 7:00 a.m.



Easter Eggstravaganza Event!

This Big Easter Event will include an Easter Bunny, Egg Hunt, Country Critters Petting Zoo, Bubble Show, Prizes, Car Show, Face Painting, Inflatables & More Family Fun!

We are in need of the following:

Candy and Plastic Eggs, **COOL CARS** for the Car Show, Parking Lot Attendants, Food Prep and Food Table Volunteers, Inflatables Volunteers, Prayer Partners, People to Flyer Neighborhood, Set Up and Clean Up Crews, Egg Hunt Field Hosts, Bathroom Monitors, Greeters and Runners.

EGG & GOODY BAG STUFFING DAY will be Sunday, March 26, 11:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m., with a back-up on Wednesday, March 29, time TBD.

SAVE THE DATE!!

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

IF:2023

April 21-22

Join us here at Grace on
Friday, April 21 from 6:00-9:00 pm, and
Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm.