

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

**A BIBLICAL, CONFESSIONAL AND TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION IN THE CHICAGO REGION
COMMITTED TO MINISTERING TO SINNERS
WITH THE FORGIVING PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 14, 2021

✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

Setting 4



A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called "Divine Service" - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

The people sinned by speaking *“against God and against Moses,”* and the Lord called them to repentance by sending fiery serpents, which *“bit the people, so that many people of Israel died”* (Num. 21:4–6). When the people confessed their sin, the Lord provided a means of rescue from death. He instructed Moses to *“make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole,”* so that *“if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live”* (Num. 21:8–9). Thus, God sent His Son into the world, in the likeness of our sin and death, and lifted Him up on the pole of the cross, that whoever looks to Him in faith *“may have eternal life”* (John 3:14–16). By His cross, *“the light has come into the world,”* not for condemnation, but *“that the world might be saved through him”* (John 3:17–19). While we *“were dead in the trespasses and sins”* in which we once lived (Eph. 2:1), God loved us, calling us to repentance and raising us up with Christ to live *“with him in the heavenly places”* (Eph. 2:4–6).

Prayer before Worship

O God, You sent Your Son to be the true Light of the world. Grant that those who cannot see the things of the world may be more fully enlightened and comforted by Your presence. Reveal Yourself to those who do not know You, and enliven those who know You by faith to an ever deeper understanding of Your love. Grant them steadfast faith in this life and strengthen them in Your service that in the life to come they may behold You as You are and awake to the full revelation of Your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- P** designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the pastor
- C** designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the congregation
- ✠ designates the parts of the liturgy where the sign of the cross may be made
- △ designates a hymn that ends with a Trinitarian stanza; please stand for the final stanza

Opening Hymn

566 By Grace I'm Saved



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

- 5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?
- 6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

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Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13 / John 20:19-23

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. In light of these words, *let us contemplate the 7th & 8th Commandments (The pastor will now give a brief overview of the Commandments....*

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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

C **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 27:3-5; antiphon: Psalm 27:1

The 27th psalm is a psalm of thanks. However, it also prays much and gives us comfort against the false teachers who give a false witness, blaspheming without any hesitation. For only entirely foolhardy saints would give a witness, bold and impudent, before God—from whom they have no command!

[Reading the Psalms with Luther, p. 160]



- A** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?*
- The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?
- C** **Though an army encamp against me, my heart | shall not fear;***
- though war arise against me, yet I will be | confident.**

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His | temple.

For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of | trouble;*

He will conceal me under the cover of His tent;

He will lift me high up- | on a rock.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen..

- A** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?*
- The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

Kyrie - Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Number 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Hebrews 12:12

A O come, let us fix our eyes on | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.



Epistle

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience- ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved- ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

The Verse

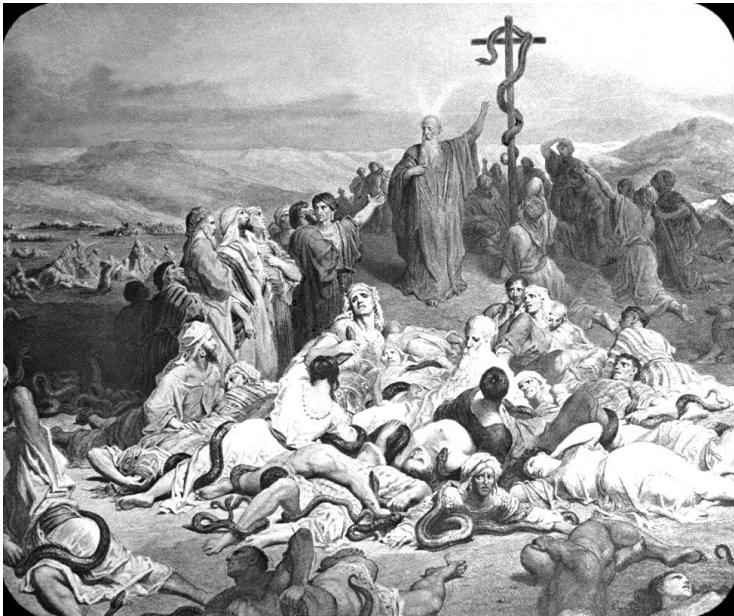
Joel 2:13

C 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.

Holy Gospel

John 3:14-21

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**



And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that

the world might be saved through him.¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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.

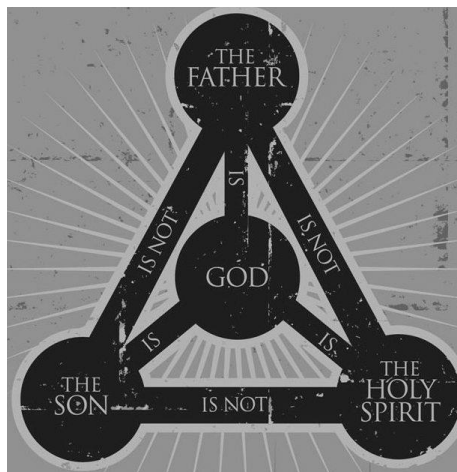
He ascended into heaven

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.**

Sit



Hymn of the Day

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

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Sermon

Stand



Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

After the final petition:

... one God, now and forever.

Amen.

You may be seated while the Pastor prepares the Sacrament.

Offering

(You may place your offering in the plates in the back of the nave as you are leaving.)

Voluntary

Wondrous Love

Flute & Organ

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 – Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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 Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

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."

Pax Domini – The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.



Agnus Dei – Lamb of God

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Dear Visitors and Friends: LENT is a time of repentance, reflection, and renewal in preparation for the three holy days of Easter and for the seven weeks of the Easter season. It is a time in which we are called to subdue and cast aside whatever gets in the way of faith toward God and fervent love for our neighbor.

For this reason, the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **Thank you for your understanding.**

Distribution

hymns are sung as needed

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
 2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
 4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
 ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand, For
 giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
 ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
 man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
 by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
 guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
 Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.

- 5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled
 Or we must die despairing,
 Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
 Our human nature sharing.
 He has for us the Law obeyed
 And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
 Which over us impended.

- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
 And brought to us salvation,
 Each Christian therefore may be glad
 And build on this foundation.
 Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
 Your death is now my life indeed,
 For You have paid my ransom.
- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
 Your Word cannot be broken;
 Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
 No falsehood have You spoken.
 Baptized into Your precious name,
 My faith cannot be put to shame,
 And I shall never perish.
- 8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin
 And makes us conscience-stricken;
 But then the Gospel enters in
 The sinful soul to quicken.
 Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
 The Law no peace can ever give,
 No comfort and no blessing.
- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
 And rests in Him unceasing;
 And by its fruits true faith is known,
 With love and hope increasing.
 For faith alone can justify;
 Works serve our neighbor and supply
 The proof that faith is living.



- △ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
 To Father, Son, and Spirit,
 The God who saved us by His grace;
 All glory to His merit.
 O triune God in heav'n above,
 You have revealed Your saving love;
 Your blessed name we hallow.

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543 What Wondrous Love Is This



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 That
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
sing His 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.

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

DISMISSAL

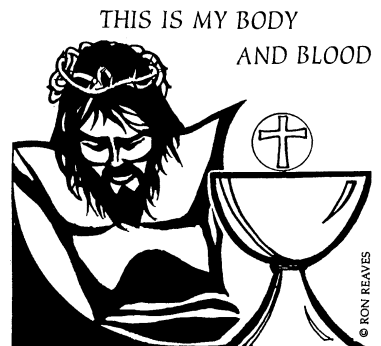
P The eating and drinking of your Savior's sacred body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the one true Christian faith unto life everlasting. Depart in the joy of His Peace.

C Amen.

- C** (sung) **O Lord, now let Your servant, Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

- 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.**



Benedicamus & Benediction

Psalm 103:1; Numbers 6:24-26

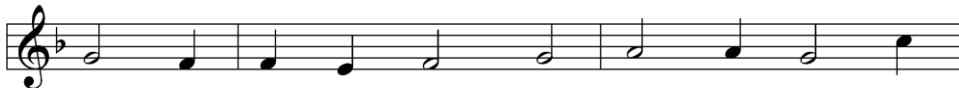
- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

580 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace



1 The Gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who sent His
2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who made the a -
3 It brings the Sav - ior's righ - teous - ness To robe our
4 It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and



Son to save our race, Pro - claims how Je - sus
ton - ing sac - ri - fice, And calls the souls with
souls in roy - al dress; From all our guilt it
Sa - tan and the grave; It works the faith which



lived and died That we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
guilt op - pressed To come and find e - ter - nal rest.
brings re - lease And gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
firm - ly clings To all the trea - sures which it brings.

- 5 It bears to all the tidings glad
And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The weary, burdened souls it cheers
And banishes their guilty fears.
- 6 May we in faith its message learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

Tune and text: Public domain

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠

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The Lutheran Church retains ceremonies that underscore and support the Gospel—the good news that we are saved by *grace alone* through *faith alone* in *Christ alone*. Such laudable ceremonies include making the sign of the cross in remembrance of Holy Baptism. Those places in the service where Lutherans have traditionally made the sign of the cross are marked with a cross (✠).

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

“Look at the words, I beseech you, to determine how and of whom He is speaking.... No one is here excluded. God’s Son was given for *all*. *All* should believe, and *all* who do believe should not perish, etc. Take hold of your own nose, I beseech you, to determine whether you are not a human being (that is, part of the world) and, like any other man, [you] belong to the number of those comprised in the word ‘all’ ”

✠ Martin Luther ✠

“Out of His immense goodness and mercy, God provides for the public preaching of His divine eternal Law and His wonderful plan for our redemption, that of the holy, only saving Gospel of His eternal Son, our only Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ”

Formula of Concord – Solid Declaration