



CHRIST WITH US



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

5600 West Palmdale Ave

Glendale, Arizona 85301

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WELCOME TO GRACE!

We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

CONTACT US...

Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

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AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Preaching Minister: Pastor Jacobson

Liturgist: Pastor Sellnow

Senior ushers: 8:00 AM – Nick Lincoln
10:30 AM – Jerry Rovey

Organist: Michael Wilde

A/V Team: 8:00 AM – Tracey Moreland / Mark Breiling
10:30 AM – Sam Jacobson

ABOUT THE THEME

Over 500 years ago, Lutheran Christians were under tremendous pressure. They were forced to defend themselves on battlefields both metaphorical and literal. But they took comfort that Christ himself was by their side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit.

Just 175 years ago, the Lutheran Christians who founded WELS were also under tremendous pressure. The pressure continues today with opposition to the truths of the Word of God. But we take comfort that Christ is with us in Word and sacrament, and we move forward with the promise of his presence.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Setting 2 (CW 172)

HYMN: NOT UNTO US

CW 582

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

DECLARATION OF GRACE

CW 173

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

CW 174

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.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



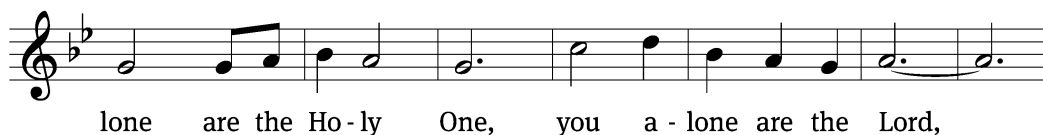
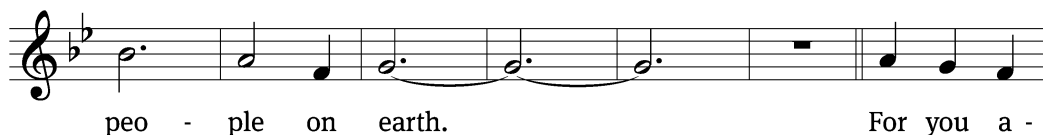
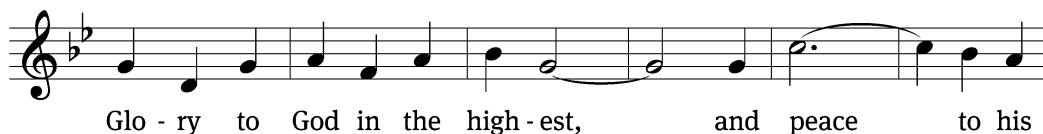
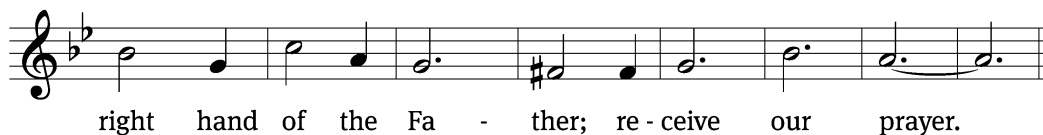
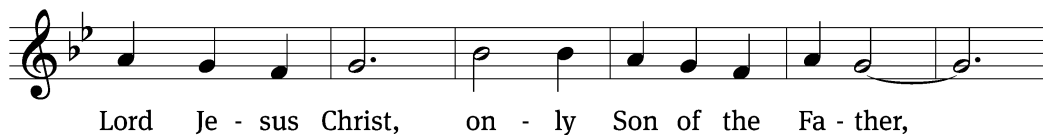
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heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

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God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord, keep your household, the church, in continual godliness. Even as you have been with us in WELS for 175 years, continue to bless us with your presence through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Joshua 4:1–9

God's people memorialize his gracious presence.

¹When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ²“Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”

⁴So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁵and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ⁷tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

⁸So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. ⁹Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ADULT CHOIR

"Cornerstone"

SECOND READING

Revelation 3:7–13

Christ is coming soon. Hold on to what you have and go through the open door before you.

⁷“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

¹¹I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹²The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.

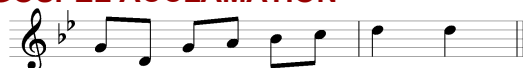
Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. ¹³Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8:31,32

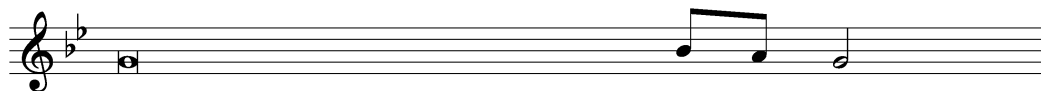


Refrain



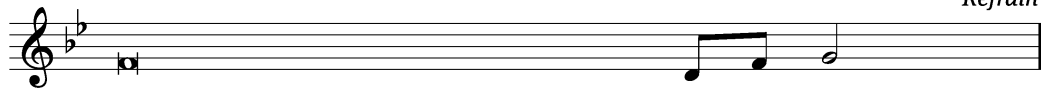
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Tone



If you hold to my teaching, you are really my dis - ci - ples.

Refrain



Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

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GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

The presence of Christ in his Word sets us free.

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

At this time, children are invited to the front of the church to hear a special children's message from the Pastor.

HYMN OF THE DAY: A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

CW 864 sts. 1–4

SERMON

Joshua 4:1–9

WHAT DOES THIS 175th ANNIVERSARY OF WELS MEAN?

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH for Reformation

Almighty and eternal God, when the set time had come, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to take our place under the demands of the law and endure the just punishment for our sins. You raised him from death in glorious splendor and for his sake, you richly and daily forgive sins.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

When the set time had come, you poured out your Spirit on your people and called them to proclaim the gospel to every creature. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the story of salvation to all the world.

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

When the set time had come, you raised up your servant Martin Luther to destroy the idols of the medieval age and to restore the pure teaching of the Scriptures. You granted power and success to the proclamation of the gospel, and your holy Church grew and prospered throughout the world.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

When the set time had come, you made our fathers bold to take their stand on the truth of your Word. Guided by your Spirit, they joined hands and hearts under a shared confession and with a determined resolve to work together in the ministry. You have blessed their sons and daughters and enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving gospel of your Son.

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

Let this be the time when you renew us again by Word and Sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the fathers of our church's past.

May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us or forsake us.

Let this be a time to imitate the kind-hearted souls in our church who served the sick, helped the disabled, cared for the abandoned, and comforted the dying. Provide occasions to serve them and times to pray for them. Keep all your children in your powerful and gracious care.

As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Special Intercessions

Let this be a time when we recommit ourselves to the ministry of the gospel of your Son. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and, if it is your will, success in our labor. And give us faith to take up again the trumpet none can silence or mistake and grant us courage to proclaim once more for all the world to hear: The feast is ready! Come to the feast!

**May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us,
that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.**

Let this time and all our times be used to give thanks for your grace in Christ
and to praise you for calling us into your mission to save.

**Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love and establish the work
of our hands. Amen.**

OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD

Please complete the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time.

HYMN: LORD JESUS CHRIST, WITH US ABIDE

CW 641

Please stand

PRAYER

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN: LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE CHURCH'S HEAD

CW 861

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

CHRIST WITH US

Joshua 4:1-9

What anniversaries were mentioned in the introduction? What other reformation, synodical or congregational anniversaries are remembered by you? (even if you have to open a book or do an internet search to remember one) 😊

In what way(s) would these stone memorials serve as a bridge from the past into the future? How can our synod's 175th anniversary serve in similar ways?

"But what about the 12 stones?" What did each stone represent? What would you think if we had a stone from each of our WELS' congregations for a memorial?

Reflect on these other stones: a) Mt 21:35-46; b) Mt 27:62-28:3; c) 1 Pt 2:4-10.

What challenges might be lurking ahead for our Wisconsin synod? How might our church body best address them?
