

WELCOME

We are so glad you are worshiping with us today! You honor us by your presence and we give thanks for you. If you are new to Grace Presbyterian or Midland Lutheran, we hope you will join us again and consider attending any of the mission, fellowship, and discipleship opportunities. Pastor Diane is available in the narthex after the service to visit with you about how you can join in the life and ministry of this faith community. God's peace to you today and every day.

For more information about uniting with this faith community, please contact the church office (432-684-6542) or Pastor Diane (pastor.gracepres@gmail.com).

Today's worship service is being streamed on Facebook on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81478638028>).

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Diane M. Baldwin; Assisting Elder Bob Dawson; Director of Music Laura Holleman; Handbell Choir; Digital Worship Supervisor Bob Alexander.

AVAILABLE EVERY SUNDAY

Hearing assistance devices; large print hymnals; fun activity bags for children; and the pray space/children's activity area in the front corner of the sanctuary.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for worship, it's easy to forget to turn off your cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please power off cell phones and other electronic devices so that the worship service isn't disrupted by them.



Hymn Festival Worship Service

Sunday, November 26

11:00 a.m.



Together in Grace

2801 N. Garfield Street
Midland, Texas 79705
CCLI #1174331, #21921884

gracemidland@suddenlinkmail.com



midlandlutheranchurch@gmail.com

Grace Presbyterian and Midland Lutheran Churches 24th Sunday After Pentecost ~ November 12, 2023



*Let us center ourselves, still our voices, and focus our hearts,
that through scripture and music we may be prepared
to worship God. We pass the Friendship Book as a way of
welcoming one another to this time of sacred worship.*

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share signs of the Peace of Christ with one another.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 78:1-7

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God's might, and the wonders that he has done.

The Lord established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep God's commandments.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Let us pray. . . Eternal God, you are from everlasting to everlasting. Though the span of human life is brief, you are infinite. Centuries ebb and give way to millennia, yet you are the same. You have been our dwelling place in all generations, our protector in the storms of life. We praise you and we thank you for your boundless mercy that sustains us all of our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*HYMN

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

#299

**Please rise in body and in spirit.*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us, says the psalmist. With the assurance of God's healing mercies in our lives, we need not fear confession, but instead come with honesty, seeking wholeness in our own lives, and in the lives of those we may have injured. Let us confess to God those aspects of our lives in need of God's grace, first in unison, and then in silence.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, your way for us is clear: We are to live so that the manner of our lives speaks of your goodness, your generosity, your infinite mercy. Too often, though, we forget the purposes for which you made us. Too often, when we might meet inhumanity with the reflection of your goodness, we turn aside. We return unkindness for unkindness. We cling to what might be shared. We avoid those who are not like us. We fail to give grace in the measure we have received it. Forgive us, we pray. Remind us that your goodness is enduring, and your mercy is everlasting, for we pray all these things in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ...

(Time of silent confession)

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ephesians 2:8-10

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one might boast.

For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Believe the promise of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE

GLORIA PATRI, #581

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.***

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let your Word dwell within us richly, O Lord. Let your truth ring as a clarion through the chatter around us. Hold us in this time, that your wisdom may shape us to the depth of our humanity, through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7 (Responsive)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 25:1-13

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"Incline your heart and ears"

The Rev. Diane M. Baldwin

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

*We invite you to affirm your faith in the version of
The Apostles' Creed that is part of your faith tradition.*

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

*HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal!

#269

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*We invite you to pray The Lord's Prayer
in the version that is part of your faith tradition.*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

*Please tear out the completed sheet(s) in the
Friendship Book and place in the offering plate.*

*CELEBRATING GOD'S GIFTS

DOXOLOGY, #607

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

Guide My Feet

#741

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE