# **WELCOME**

# ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST

**To our visitors** We are glad you have joined us to share in the gifts of our gracious Lord as we worship Him together in spirit and truth by receiving His Word and Sacraments. We invite you to pick up information and our Wittenberg Way newsletter at our welcome desk. If you have questions concerning the Christian faith or the Lutheran tradition, please let us know as our pastor would love to speak with you.

Children are welcome in our services Grace is a church family and we believe like any family we learn by doing things together. Bulletins are available for children that coincide with the liturgical calendar and scripture readings. We encourage parents to guide their children throughout the service, helping them to the learn the language of the faith through the liturgy. A nursery with sound is located in the hallway outside the sanctuary to the right just before the glass door to the courtyard.

**Holy Communion** Our fellowship in the Lord's Supper follows the Lutheran tradition grounded in the teaching of Holy Scripture. As one baptized into the Name of our Triune God and confessing the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Supper for the forgiveness of sins you are warmly invited to join us around the table for Holy Communion. If you are not communing but wish to be blessed, then simply cross your arms at the rail and you will be blessed by the celebrant.

# **Giving to Grace**

- Your weekly envelopes or those in the pews
- Online from your bank website
- Scan the QR code to the right
- On the Grace Giving Page at gracesandiego.com
- Time & Talents contact Pr. Brian



Please silence cell phones and be mindful of those preparing for worship.

Restrooms are available in the hallway outside the sanctuary.



#### AS WE GATHER

### The Great Vigil of Easter

In the ancient church, the Vigil of Easter was the most important Service of the Church Year. Christians would gather after sunset on Holy Saturday and hold vigil ("keep watch") throughout the night, praying, listening to readings of Holy Scripture, and singing psalms and hymns, culminating in the celebration of the resurrection of Christ at dawn. Our Service tonight will not be nearly as elaborate or lengthy, but it will be based upon the themes of that ancient Service. We pray for the Lord's richest blessings upon you as you receive His Divine Gifts this evening.

#### Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

#### C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which Our Lord Jesus passed over from death into life, we are gathered here in vigil and in prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which we share in His victory over death by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments.

#### Collect

P: O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C: Amen.

# **Blessing of the Paschal Candle**

P: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

(The cross is traced on the paschal candle.)

P: The Alpha and the Omega.

(The Greek letters Alpha and Omega are traced on the paschal candle.)

P: By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

(The cross and nails are placed into the paschal candle.)

P May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

(The paschal candle is lit.)

#### **SERVICE OF LIGHT**

Renewal of the Pascal Candle (Narthex)

**Procession to the Baptismal Font** 

Service of Light 243

Phos Hilaron 244
Thanksgiving for Light 245

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Remembrance of Holy Baptism** 

All Who Believe and Are Baptized

The Divine Drama:

**Easter Proclamation** 

1. The King Creates (Genesis 2:4-25)

2. The Kingdom Rebels (Genesis 3:1-21)

3. The King Promises (Genesis 15:1-6)

4. The King Delivers (Luke 24:36-53)

5. The King Returns (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

Sermon

"The Story of All Stories"

**Service of Holy Communion** 

Collect for Holy Saturday

Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

Pax Domini

Benediction

Now All the Vault of Heaven

465

601

#### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Pastor Rev. Brian Thomas
Director of Music Dale Sorenson

# **SERVING EASTER VIGIL AT 9 PM**

Lector Jason Huntley
Usher John Downey

# **SERVING EASTER SUNDAY AT 8:00 AM**

Elder Steve Hollman
Altar Guild Huntley Family
Crucifer Spencer Huntley
Acolytes Andrew Gertz
Peter Gertz

Lector Mark Jordan
Usher John Downey

# **SERVING EASTER SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM**

Elder Jeremy Fullam
Altar Guild Kelley Clark
Crucifer Citlali Gomez

Acolytes Georgia Thompson

JJ Sorrells

Lector Jeremy Fullam
Usher John Downey

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EASTER BRUNCH** From 9:00 to 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share.

TNT - TUESDAY NIGHT THING at McGregor's on April 27 from 4-6 pm

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WED. BIBLE STUDY** on recess until May 4 and May 7.

# **PRAYER LIST**

# FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING

Dave, Mike, Arleen, Eddie, Michelle, Mark, Steve, Kristi, and Daryl

#### FOR OUR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Elsy Lehman

#### FOR OUR MISSIONARIES & SEMINARIANS

Rev. Dr. Tardelli Voss, Vicar Rowan Turner, and Vicar William Baker

#### FOR OUR MILITARY MEMBERS

Micah Burge, Nathan Farish, Matthew Morgan, Jeff & Jordan Gruetzmacher, Joshua Simmons, and Thomas Spencer

### FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND

Joyce Rochester, Herb & Marge Foelber, Janice Keitel

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 3967 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92103 619.299.2890 www.gracesandiego.com

# **EASTER VIGIL**

April 19, 2025 9:00 pm



Proclaiming the Good News of God's grace in Jesus Christ