

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 500 South Wayne Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980

July 26, 2020

" A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus"

Service of the Word via YouTube

(Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Jay Beech Setting)

Congregational responses are in bold print

In this time of Coronavirus, the "Order of Worship" that we use has changed. From the earliest years of the Church the order of Worship was to **GATHER**, bringing ourselves and all that we are before God; then to hear the **WORD** of God, letting it enter our lives with the expectation, as the prophet Isaiah tells us, that it will not come away empty, but accomplish succeed in that which God purposes for it. (Isaiah 55:10-11). We are hearing that word from (usually) two readings during this time of Coronavirus; the gospel, and one additional reading, either from the Old Testament, the Psalms, or an epistle reading. Then we hear the Word proclaimed through the Sermon. We confess our faith, we share in Prayers to God for the world we live in and in thanksgiving to God for the promises that we will not be alone in whatever we are going through. And we are thankful for God's Living Word, Jesus, the embodied Word of God, and the ways Jesus is revealed through the Old and New Testament. Then we are **SENT** into this world - perhaps the most important part of worship, even if the shortest - because it is then that we live out our faith proclaimed in Word and Worship.

MISSING from these weeks of physically distant worship is the **MEAL** and times to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. As mentioned during our Maundy Thursday worship, we are in a wilderness time, where the promises of God we desire so greatly, to taste and drink and see God's forgiveness of sins and new life in bread and wine, in water, are still ahead of us. And as the apostle Paul wrote so powerfully in I Corinthians 11, we wait to receive the Sacrament together until ALL can receive it, not restricted by distance, and/or accessibility to technology that might allow some in the Body to receive it, and not others. So we pray for that time when we are re-united and able to receive the Meal together, and place our hope in the God who has called us through Water and the Word to bring us together again.

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Beth Ann Doerring

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Father, and of the Son H and of the Holy Spirit, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through + Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

<u>Prelude</u>

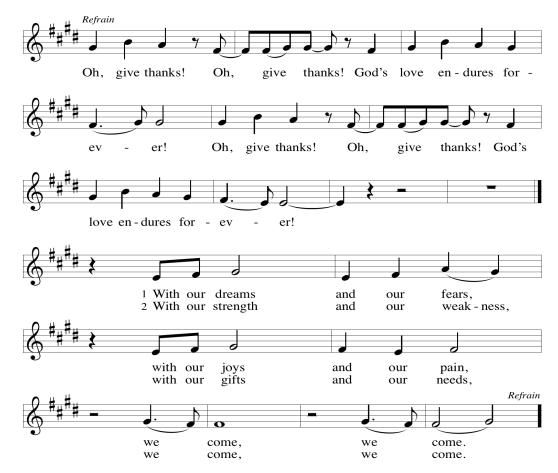
Greeting

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.**

Hymn of Praise

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God's Love Endures Forever



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Prayer of the Day

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading: Romans 8: 26-39

A reading from Romans:

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

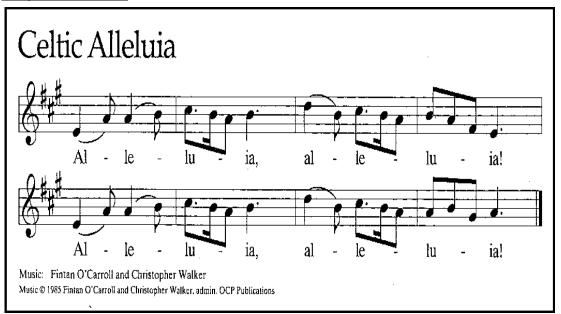
³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. **Gospel Acclamation**



Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Continued

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Children's Sermon

<u>Sermon</u>

Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Musical Offering

Mike Trauscht

Apostle's Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,

God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

<u>Peace</u>

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. 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.

Sending

<u>Blessing</u>

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "For the Healing of the World"

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<u>Dismissal</u>

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today Assisting Minister: Lilly Pingel **Offering Steward:** Pat Brady Altar Flowers: Open Council Person of the Week: Gail Johnson

Children's Sermon:



The Chancel Flowers today are given to the glory of God



Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons



Please call the Church Office if you need to add someone to the Prayer List. In an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us, names on the Prayer List will remain for four weeks. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing Need for Prayer" list.

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for 4 weeks*) Cynthia Long Mickey Shook Flo Walck

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for 4 weeks*) Tony Forbes, Cousin of Ron Almarode Linda Mader, Friend of Cynthia Long Cindy Rudin, Friend of Cynthia Long Monica McCall-Shadle, Niece of Sharon Lynch Rob Tweedie, Friend of Kathy Johnson

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Please advise of status changes)

Liz Ann Binns	Fred Brower	Marie Brown
Nancy Fitzgerald	Pete Giesen	Sandra R. Hoy
Bob and Carol Knemoller	Janet Lunger	Glenn and Flossie Myers
Janet Parmer		

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Please advise of status changes)Janice Collins, Friend of GraceNancy Delaney, Dave Delaney's WifeLisa Dofflemeyer, Daughter of Linda TomeyHeaven Dudley, Friend of Linda MeyerKyle Getler, Member RelativeMaxine Pierce, Mother of Cindy TrauschtBarbara Shifflett and FamilyGeorge Toop, Friend of Schwiesows

Members/Friends Grieving

Family of Olga Bouchard, David & Vivian Proctors' son's mother-in-law
Family of Reed Forbes, Uncle of Ron Almarode
Family of June Huff, Mother of Donna Gum
Family of Curtis Powell, Friend of Donna Gum
Family of Taylor Quesenberry, Friend of Mike and Susan Myers
Family of James Sarsfield, Father of Marianne Aronson

<u>Prayer of Thanksgivin</u>	g for Congregation Members	<u>s Throughout the Year</u>
Sloane Franklin	Bobby Hull	Gail Johnson
Steve Jones	Landon Lynch	Cindy Trauscht

<u>The Needs of the World</u> Our Nation, celebrating its 244th year, and prayers for our way forward together **The continuing Coronavirus outbreak and our willingness and discipline to help reduce the risk** Our School Districts, Colleges, Teachers and students as they prepare for school in August and September **Our local officials: Bobby Henderson, Mayor; Lana Williams, Vice-Mayor and City Council**

<u>The Church</u> Our neighbors on S. Wayne, The Tree Streets, and Arch and Market **Our children and grandchildren, and their** growth in faith Our congregation as we prepare to resume in-person worship **Our sisters and brothers at Basic United** Methodist Church with new pastors: Bill Jones and Jose Colon



A New Way of Doing Meals on Wheels—For approximately 40 years Grace has delivered meals to the homebound in November through Meals on Wheels. As with many ministries Grace has been involved with over the years, during the COVID19 pandemic we are being asked to adjust to a new normal. Currently the staff members of VPAS (Valley Program for Aging Services) have been delivering 7 meals each Wednesday; however, they now plan to begin

sending meals out 2 or 3 times a week, and need volunteers to help.

Instead of church members volunteering for different days during a single month as we have done in the past, VPAS needs people who are willing to take meals on a certain day and/or on a certain week on a regular basis each month. At this time they aren't sure if they will be operating 2 or 3 days a week. These changes eliminate **churches** covering for a month during the year, and instead relies on a model where individuals (community partners) care for the meal distribution.

This is a new way of Meals on Wheels distribution! Again, Grace will no longer deliver meals for the month of November. Instead Grace members are being asked to individually sign-up to help deliver. An orientation for volunteers will be required due to the Coronavirus. If you are interested in continuing to deliver meals, please contact Gwen Kite at gwenma2002@yahoo.com or 910-0508.





In Person Worship Update—On July 7, at a specially called Council meeting,
Grace Council voted to resume in-person worship on July 26. One of the conditions of approval was that if there was a significant change in the number of Coronavirus cases in our area, Council would reconsider its decision.

Unfortunately, very soon after approval there was an immediate rise in Coronavirus cases in Waynesboro, Augusta County and Staunton. As of yesterday (July 21), our area has 494 positive cases; and in recent days, there have been two COVID deaths in the Waynesboro area alone.

One of the criteria suggested by the CDC, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and by the Virginia Synod of the ELCA for return to in-person activities is a decrease in the instances of Coronavirus in any given area. Because the opposite is true currently in our area, Council voted at its monthly meeting last night (7/21) to rescind the approval of In-Person worship until a time when the Coronavirus positivity rate is again on the decline (it should be noted that the positivity rate in SAW [Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro] is currently <u>above</u> the average rate for the entire Commonwealth).

Again, consideration for return to In-Person worship will be tied to a reduction in the rate of Coronavirus in our area. We know this decision may be disappointing to many. As fortunate as we are to have good technology to help us worship and meet together, it *is* different from being together in-person. However, in our current situation, Council felt the responsibility of reducing the risks of meeting in-person when all evidence points to the increased dangers of doing just that - which itself is faithful to God's example for us through Jesus Christ to love and care for one another.

We will continue to meet live on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. via YouTube worship (available through our website, <u>www.gracewaynesboro.org</u>), or by Zoom (by phone, audio only). We will continue to hear God's Word proclaimed, which God promises will not leave us empty in our lives (Isaiah 55:11), even and especially during the Coronavirus time! And we encourage you to take advantage of our Coffee Fellowship via Zoom after each worship service; and to continue connecting with one another in the many ways we have shown our love and care for one another and our community over the last many weeks.

God will continue to guide us as a congregation and as God's people; and will show us that as Christ's Church our call to share the gospel, and love our neighbors and one another continues as strongly as ever. Thank you for being a blessing to Grace and this community!





Temple Talks in July: In the July newsletter, Grace's Antiracism Book Study Group wrote about their almost year-long study together, and some of what they have learned over their time together. During the month of July four of the Book Study group will be sharing a Temple Talk of what they have experienced in their own lives, and/or what they have learned as fellow

members of the Body of Christ here at Grace. In addition, look for future opportunities to engage in "get to know our neighbor" conversations with Christ Tabernacle coming in the next few weeks.



Thank you to all the **worship leaders**; for the children's message and to our regular weekly stalwart helpers, Mike Myers and Owen Keefer.



Coffee Fellowship" after Worship on Sundays! In an effort to gather us for fellowship and conversation as the Body of Christ here at Grace, we invite you to bring your cup of coffee (or other beverage, or just yourself!) and join a Zoom meeting after Sunday worship (approximately 10:45 - 10:50 a.m.) whose purpose is for us to see and check in with each other,

to enjoy a smile and a laugh, to share what's on our hearts - what Martin Luther called a sign of the church - "the mutual consolation of the brothers and sisters." Look for an email or U.S. Mail note this week with information on joining the Fellowship!



School Supplies Needed—The Salvation Army is asking for donations to help provide 800 "Homework Toolboxes" for local kindergarten and first grade students. Items requested include pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, erasers, individual pencil sharpeners, age appropriate scissors, and plastic pencil boxes in which to store the items. Many stores such as Target, Staples and Wal-Mart currently have great prices on these types of items. There will be a box provided at the church in which to donate the

items. Please drop them off by August 14. Monetary donations for the purchase of these supplies is also greatly appreciated. The address is 900 B Street, P. O. Box 1065, Waynesboro, VA 22980.



WARM Updates—WARM has been sheltering the homeless this summer at the Days Inn through a partnership grant with the Commonwealth of VA. Various organizations have helped with Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry providing meals. Lunch and dinner are provided but there is a need for bag breakfasts. Grace provided 40 breakfasts daily July 13th thru 19th. A big **THANK YOU** goes to Caroline Biggers for coordinating the week.

We will be providing bag breakfasts again August 17th thru 23rd. The bag breakfast could consist of fast food biscuits, frozen sausage biscuits (guests have a microwave in their room), bananas or oranges, breakfast bars, boiled eggs, individual cups or breakfast pastries. It is delivered to the Days Inn between 8:15 and 9:15 each morning. Grace has received a \$1000 grant to help with the cost of feeding the hungry in our community through WARM and Disciples Kitchen. If you would like to help coordinate a day, pack the bags, or deliver the bags to the Days Inn, please contact Gwen Kite at gwenma2002@yahoo.com or 910-0508.

Thanks to everyone who has donated snacks for the WARM guests. They have been delivered to the Days Inn for the shelter quests and are greatly appreciated. The need for individual snacks such as chips, prepackaged cookies or individually packaged snack foods will continue throughout their stay. The box will remain in the hallway near the Church office door.



Disciples Kitchen Updates—Grace provided 40 bag lunches for Disciples Kitchen at Second Presbyterian on Thursday, July 23 and 40 breakfast bags to Basic United SERVING MEALS Methodist on July 25.

Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food banks. We have made *four deliveries Wellantees* thus far, two to Main Street United Methodist, and two to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.

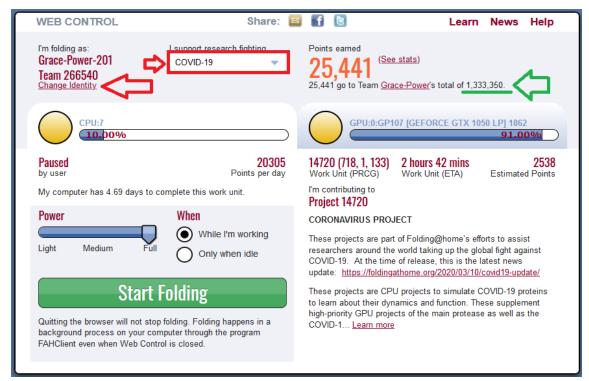


Since June 24, Grace has been battling the Coronavirus by providing computing power for the Folding@Home project based at Washington University in St. Louis. Computer programs run on millions of computers and return results to help develop new medicines. The same program also aides research into Cancers, Alzheimer's, Huntington's, and Parkinson's. Anyone can download the program at foldingathome.org

Grace statistics: stats.foldingathome.org/team/266700

In terms of computation, Grace is in the top 3% of all teams with 17 computers contributing.

Attached is a diagram of the software running. Questions? contact Owen Keefer





Life of Grace Church July 26—August 2, 2020

Day of the Week	Date	Time	Meeting
TODAY— SUNDAY	07/26	10:00 a.m.	Eighth Sunday After Pentecost Service of the Word via YouTube Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching & Presiding
		10:50 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship via Zoom
Sunday	08/02	10:00 a.m.	Ninth Sunday After Pentecost Service of the Word via YouTube Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching & Presiding
		10:50 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship via Zoom

Monday		Thursday
Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27		Deuteronomy 3:18-28
Romans 8:26-30		Romans 9:19-33
Matthew 23:1-12	Daily Lectionary	Matthew 24:1-14
Tuesday		Friday
Numbers 35:1-3, 9-15, 30	-34	Deuteronomy 31:7-13,
Romans 8:31-39		24—32:4
Matthew 23:13-26		Romans 10:1-13
		Matthew 24:15-31
Wednesday	Scripture	
Deuteronomy 1:1-18	OF THE WEEK	Saturday
Romans 9:1-18		Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Matthew 23:27-39		Romans 10:14-21
		Matthew 24:32-51

