



Second Sunday After Pentecost

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
June 11, 2023*

*"Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a vibrant
congregation that shares the love of Christ with each other,
the community, and the world."*

Holy Communion

Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Four
Congregational responses are in bold print

We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this morning's celebration of Word and Sacrament. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card. We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available please inform Communion Assistant of your need.

Restrooms: Located to your left as you face the rear of the church.

During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in bold type. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to stand, please do so as you are able. As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.

Gathering

Gloria Patri

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.

Welcome and Announcements



Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.



Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you
in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

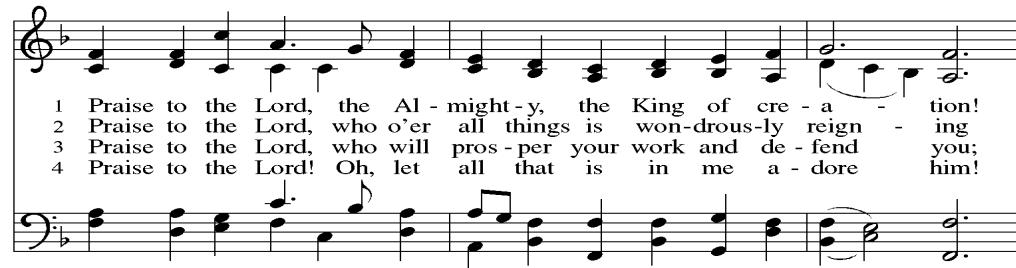
By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

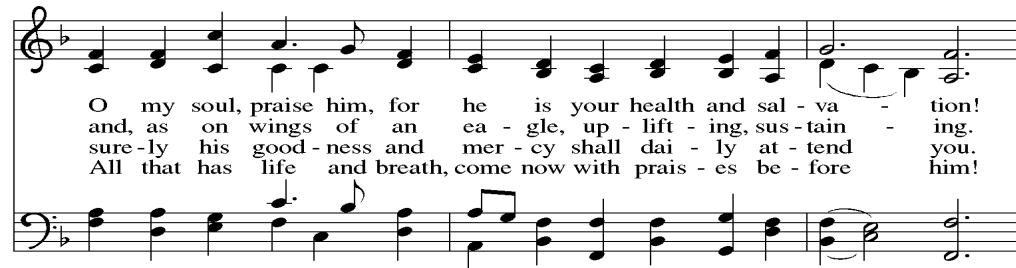
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



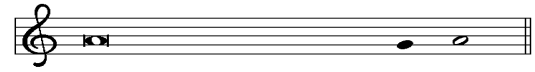
join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

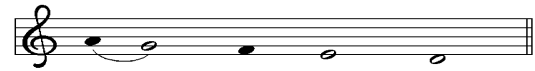
Greeting

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

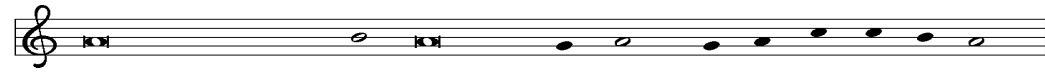
And also with you.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



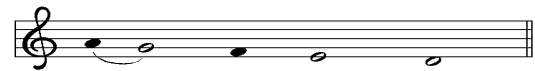
Lord, have mer - cy.



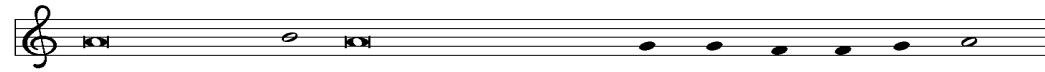
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

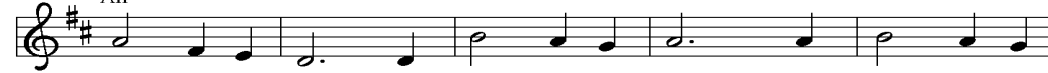
Canticle of Praise

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

Word



First Reading: Genesis 12:1-9

A reading from Genesis:

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 33

We read responsively

¹Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

²**Praise the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.**

³Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

⁴**For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.**

⁵He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

⁶**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.**

⁷He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses.

⁸**Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.**

⁹For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

¹⁰**The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.**

¹¹The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

¹²**Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

A reading from Romans:

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

Continued

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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

We sit.

Children's Message

Ron Almarode

Sermon

Ron Almarode

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

We stand.

Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

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Apostles' 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.**

Apostle's Creed in Swahili

**Ninamwamini Mungu, Baba Mwenyezi,
Muumba wa mbingu na dunia;**

**Na Yesu Kristo, Mwana wake wa pekee,
Bwana wetu, aliyetwaa mwili kwa tendo
la Roho Mutakatifu, akazaliwa na Bikira
Maria. Akateswa zamani za Pontio
Pilato, akasulibiwa, akafa, akazikwa,
akashuka kuzimuni mwa wafu,
akafufuka katika wafu siku ya tatu,
akapanda mbinguni, anakaa kwa
mukono wa kuume wa Mungu,
Baba Mwenyezi, ndipo atakuja tena
kuhukumu wazima na wafu.**

**Ninamwamini Roho Mutakatifu, Kanisa
kikristo takatifu, ushirika wa watakatifu,
ondoleo la zambi, ufufuko wa mwili, na
uzima wa milele. Amina**

The
Apostles'
+ Creed +

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen

Peace

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

We sit.



MEAL

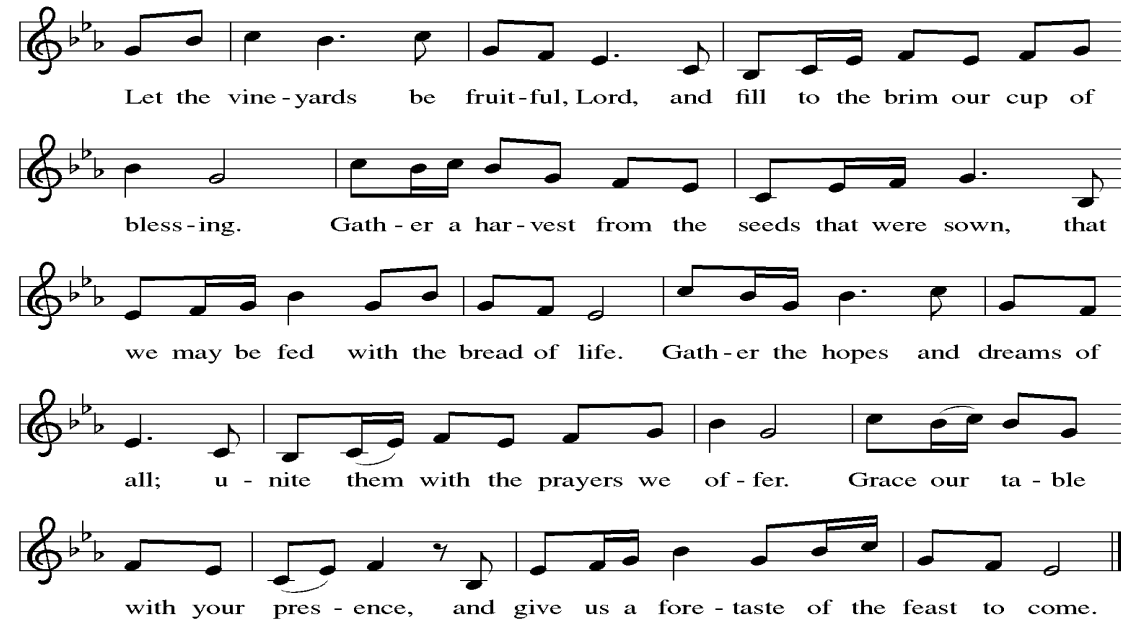
Offertory

We offer our thanks to God for "ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love" by our offerings. The offering plates will be passed by the ushers from the center aisle.

(Please place visitor cards and communion cards in the offering plate)

We stand.
Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

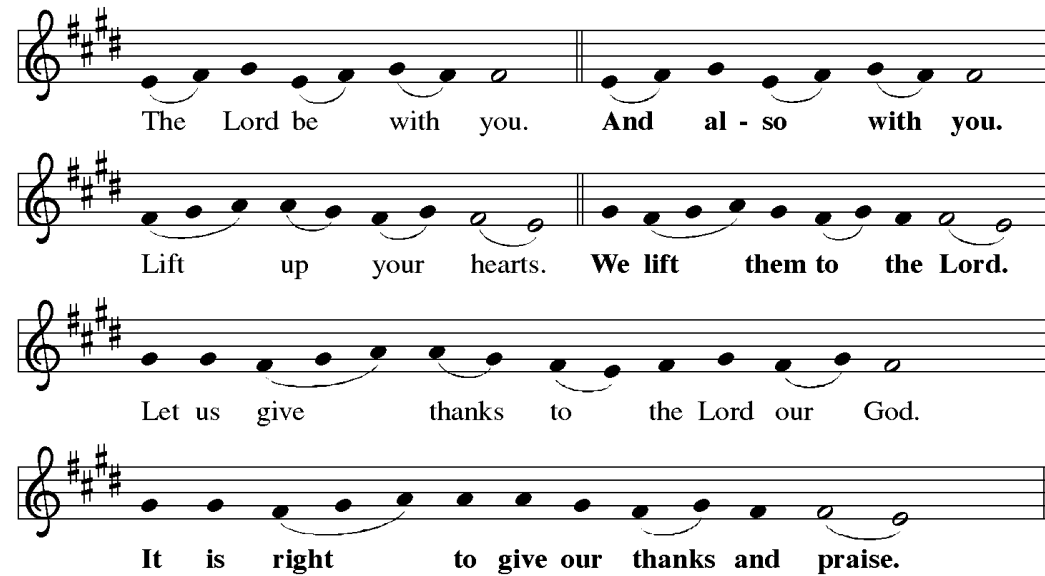
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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving



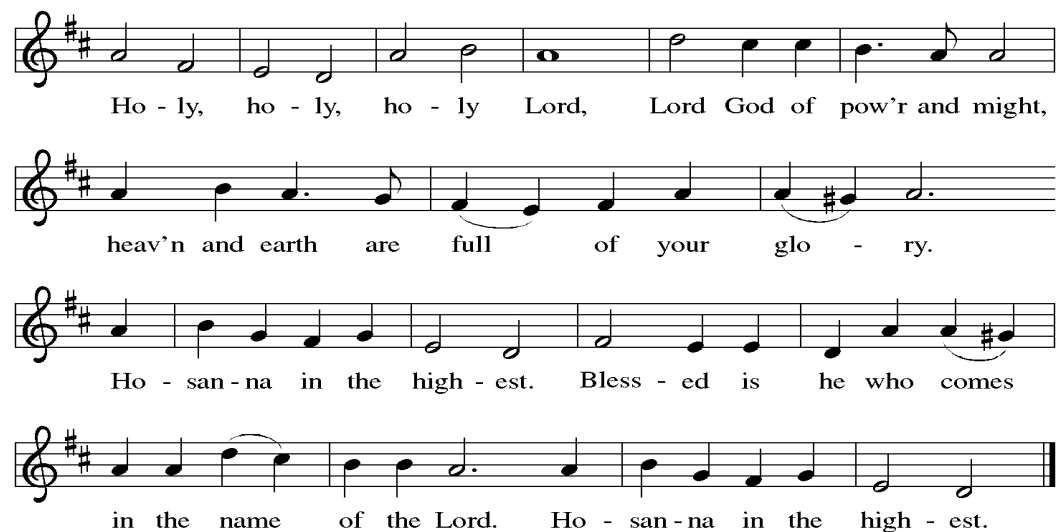
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The lyrics are printed in a simple, black, sans-serif font.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross,
opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Continued

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension,
we wait his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills
of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory,
now and forever.

Amen

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.**

Invitation to Communion

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.

Thanks be to God.

We sit.

Baba Yetu

Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, jina lako litukuzwe;
ufalme wako ufike,
utakalo lifanyike
duniani kama mbinguni.
Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,
utusamehe makosa yetu,
kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.
Usitutie katika kishawishi,
lakini utuopoe maovuni.
Amina.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Holy Communion

We sit.

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

Communion Distribution: One communion team will serve the left side of the nave; another team will serve those on the right. You are invited to come to the altar by the center aisle; take an empty individual glass (or filled grape juice glass) available at the railing, and proceed to the railing, filling in from the center out toward the side aisle. As you receive the bread and wine, you may respond as follows:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

We stand

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

**We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**



Sending

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



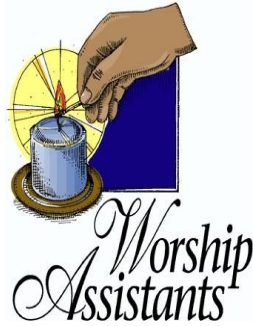
sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

Altar Flowers:	Open
Altar Guild:	Susan Myers Gloria Nelson
Assisting Minister:	Ron Almarode
Communion Assistant:	Carolyn Hite Tami Radecke
Council Person of the Week:	Jack Eckstrom
Offering Steward:	Pat Brady Robin Crowder
Ushers:	Jack Eckstrom Esme Hilker Jim Nelson



*Chancel flowers this morning
are given to the Glory of God*

Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

June 18, 2023

Third Sunday After Pentecost

Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Karen Van Stee

Presiding and Preaching

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)



Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. **Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks**, in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. 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 four (4) weeks)

Susan Myers

David Proctor

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for four (4) weeks)

Larry Fridley, Son of Linda Tomey

Shirley Gilmmett, Friend of the Lynches

Susan Pingel, Sister of Pastor Pingel

Joys and Celebrations (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Congregation of Christ Tabernacle's Move to Their New Church!

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Remain on List for three (3) months)

Marge Cloutier

Sandy Johnson

Kathy Johnson

Jimmy Owens

David Schwiesow

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for three (3) months)

Bill Aldridge, Friend of the Kites

Cathy Cunningham, Friend of the Lynches

Mike Cunningham, Friend of the Lynches

Regan Grant, Friend of Richard and Kathy Bump

David Jones, Friend of Gail and Sandy Johnson

Chris Jordan, Cousin of Mike Myers

James Pingel, Brother of Pastor Pingel

Steve Rolland, Father of Kathy Meicke

Kirsten Schwiesow, Daughter of David and Nancy Schwiesow

Arta Smith, Friend of the Bumps

Sue Smoot, Friend of the Radeckes

Continued

Members/Friends Grieving *(Remain on List for four (4) weeks*)*
Family Nickie Aldridge, Friends of the Kites
Family of Bucky Lang, Friend of the Trauschts and Nancy Dowdy

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays
Sandy Knicely (6/13)

The Needs of the World

First responders: police, fire, medical personnel, often in harms way in their work

Many Instances of War and Conflict around the World (Ukraine, Syria, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Sudan)

Our President, Vice-President, Senators, Congress, Governor and local leaders as they work for the Common Good

The immigration crisis at our U. S. borders; refugees in the millions around the world

**Huguenot High School Graduation
Shooting in Richmond, VA, #279
mass shooting in the United States**

The Church

Grace's Strategic Planning

The United Methodist Church and our neighbor UMC churches in Waynesboro

We celebrate the 200th anniversary of Zion Lutheran, Waynesboro, and pray for their continued ministry

The new Virginia Synod Bishop

Our Neighbors

Our Neighbors in the Berkeley Glenn Area



Thanks to Worship Leaders this Morning - Ron Almarode is our guest preacher *and* assisting minister this morning, presenting Bishop Humphries' Assembly sermon on this final day of the Virginia Synod Assembly, which concludes today. By worship time's conclusion a new Bishop should be elected, and we'll share any news that comes our way. Thanks also to Pastor Karen Van Stee who will be presiding at worship, including Holy Communion. And continue to pray for our delegates Donna Gum, Lily Pingel, Pastor Paul, and Peggy Caister as they conclude their work today.



Project Esperanza Fund Drive—Last year, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ worked together to donate \$5520 to Project Esperanza. This year, our goal is to raise \$6000, enough money to support ten deserving students for a full year. We are already halfway to that goal, thanks to a \$2000 pledge from the Grace Endowment Fund and a \$1000 pledge from an anonymous donor. The Grace/COGIC Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice and the Grace All God's Children groups are sponsoring this fund drive but invite all members and friends of the two congregations to contribute.

Grace members can contribute directly to the Church, noting the money is contributed in support of Project Esperanza as a memo. We will collect funds throughout June and July, with the fund drive ending on August 3, 2023. The mission of Project Esperanza is to form a global community focused on creating positive change and a sustainable future for Haitian refugee and immigrant youths in the Dominican Republic through education and empowerment. For the past 16 years, Project Esperanza has served the Haitian refugee and immigrant population of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic in the areas of education, social aid, and community development. The project runs two schools serving 275 Haitian immigrant children in the Dominican Republic. It also provides housing, food, and family structure for a group of vulnerable youth and young adults. In collaboration with two universities, the project provides small business grants and loans to promote artistic training and a pathway to sales for the population it serves. More information is available at the project's web site: <https://esperanzameanshope.org/>



Grace on the "ground floor" - Grace has been working with other local congregations to establish an Assistance Ministry that helps all Waynesboro congregations to pool their resources to:

- Better help local people and families in crisis with rent and other assistance
- Have one place where people in need can go, rather than "shop" all the churches
- Establish a database so as many people as possible are helped, with no duplication of services
- Offer casework services to families so they can receive the help they need to move from living in crisis to functional living more able to focus on children and the more routine challenges of daily life.

Grace Council on May 16th approved our congregation as a "charter member" of this Assistance Ministry. We will be a part of putting together the policies on how the fund is used. Currently approximately 10 other congregations have expressed interest, with the hope that we continue to grow the number of participating churches. Please pray for this Ministry, and getting it up and running as soon as possible, as the need is great!



NEWS FROM GRACE HIKER MINISTRY: The hikers are finding us! And they are enjoying our space, showers, snacks and fellowship. Many thanks to those groups which have provided Thursday meals (Gail, they had many days of leftovers from your Christ Care Group's meal!) and brought cookies, fruit, and stocked the refrigerator. Thanks also to Pastor Pingel for his inspiring Vesper homilies. And we truly appreciate the kindness of those who give of their time to check-in or check-out and spend the night with our hikers. Most special thanks go to our Coordinators, Linda Meyer and Jean Morgan, who organize our efforts and keep us on track. And to Nancy, our church administrator, who is always willing to type, print, or laminate signs and post cards and who keeps an eye out for hikers who come to the office door during the day! It has been a pleasure and a privilege to spend the last two weeks with you wonderful people, a very special congregation in a very special and beautiful place. (It still feels like home, even though Woody and I have been gone for 12 years now.)

With hugs, Irma Graf



Pastor Paul away next Sunday - Pastor will be traveling to Newfoundland this coming week and next Sunday, returning Monday the 19th. We give thanks that Pastor Van Stee will preach and preside at worship June 18th. Thanks so much to her for sharing her calling and gifts.



Grace's Congregational Council has approved sponsoring a second mission trip to CICRIN, the Nicaraguan Christian Children's Center and School. The dates are February 2-10, 2024 and the tentative price is the same as this year: \$1,995 per person. Those who think they might be interested can speak with Grace members who were part of this year's team: Chuck and Judy Goodrich, Linda Myer, Pastor Pingel, and trip leaders Mark and Tami Radecke. Anyone wanting to have a FAQ sheet emailed to them can contact Mark Radecke at radecke@susqu.edu.



The "First Sunday Fellowships" are in full swing! Each "first Sunday" of the month, one of our volunteer groups at Grace will hold a gathering in the Fellowship Hall after worship. There will be the opportunity for the groups to explain what their group does, who is involved, answer questions, and have fellowship and a few light refreshments. Please sign up your group so the congregation can learn more about what goes on in the life of our church! A sign-up sheet has been placed in the back of the church with enough dates for at least 19 counted groups, which are listed! Please see Sylvia Almarode if you have any questions.

Schedule for 2023 First Sunday Fellowships Hosts:

July 2	Open
August 6	Altar Guild
September 3	Open
October 1	Quilters
November 5	Open
December 3	Open



Hospitality and Grace—Are you interested in learning more about Christianity and hospitality? Join us for a book/study group! We will read Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition by Christine D. Pohl (9 chapters, 187 pages). If interested, please contact Eric Hilker 978-793-9845, Pastor Paul Pingel, 540-216-4454, or Susan Myers, 434-760-1660.



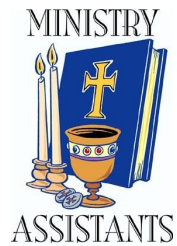
Missing? Sunglasses, a cell phone and umbrella have found their way to our Lost and Found since last week. See Pastor Paul if you are seeking to find!



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 pantries. We have made **thirty-four** deliveries thus far, fifteen to Main Street United Methodist, and nineteen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 3,654 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Altar Flowers—Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for Sunday services. You can either sign up on flower chart in the Nave or call the church office.



We Need Your Help at Grace! One of the blessings that God's Spirit gives us as a congregation is that we ALL have gifts, talent and time TO SHARE, which allows the ministry of Grace, and God's Mission for us, to continue. If you are not already actively assisting, please consider helping with the Altar Guild (contact Jean Morgan), Assisting Ministers (contact Donna Gum), Communion Assistants (contact Donna Gum), Offering Stewards (contact Pat Brady) and/or Ushers (contact Jack Eckstrom). You may also contact the church office.



Reminder—Please have articles, etc. for **Grace Notes** to the Church Office by the 20th of the month for next month's publication. If you need more time, please send Nancy a note and let her know when she will receive it. In addition, please have announcements, etc. for **Sunday bulletins** to the Church Office by Wednesday morning. Nancy's email is: Grace.lc@comcast.net



If the church **office door is locked** during open hours, please knock and give Nancy a few minutes to answer. For safety reasons, she is locking the door when alone at the church, especially first thing in the morning. Thank you for your patience!



Life of Grace Church
June 11-18, 2023

Day of the Week	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	06/11	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Virginia Synod Assembly Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room) Second Sunday After Pentecost Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Ron Almarode , Preaching Rev. Karen Van Stee , Presiding
Monday	06/12		Pastor on Vacation June 12-19 Hiker Ministry
Tuesday	06/13		Hiker Ministry
Wednesday	06/14	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hiker Ministry Prayer Group (Chapel) Yoga (Seminar Room)
Thursday	06/15	8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hiker Ministry Newcomers (Fellowship Hall) Grace Walkers Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) CCE&J Zoom Meeting
Friday	06/16		Hiker Ministry
Saturday	06/17	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Hiker Ministry Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconciliation (Constitution Park) Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
	06/18	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room) Third Sunday After Pentecost Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Karen Van Stee Preaching and Presiding

**Monday**

Deuteronomy 4:9-14
2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Luke 14:25-35
Morning Psalm 57, Evening 85

Tuesday

Deuteronomy 4:15-24
2 Corinthians 1:12-22
Luke 15:1-10
Morning Psalm 54, Evening 28

Wednesday

Deuteronomy 4:25:31
2 Corinthians 1:23—2:17
Luke 15:1-2, 11-32
Morning Psalm 65, Evening 125

Thursday

Deuteronomy 4:32-40
2 Corinthians 3:1-18
Luke 16:1-9
Morning Psalm 143, Evening 81

Friday

Deuteronomy 5:1-22
2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Luke 16:10-17
Morning Psalm 88, Evening 6

Saturday

Deuteronomy 5:22-33
2 Corinthians 4:13—5:20
Luke 16:19-31
Morning Psalm 122, Evening 100

CHURCH COUNCIL

Robin Crowder (540-476-0180)
Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176)
Allison Fink (540-448-0985)
Jerry Kite (540-910-3372)
Linda Meyer (540-256-2277)
Jean Morgan (540-649-4422)
Susan Myers (434-760-1660)
Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772)
Karen Walck (765-480-9920)
Donna Yobs (650-248-4882)
Cabell Caister, Youth Member
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor, Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music, Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary, Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

***Office Hours: 8:00—11:30 a.m. and 12:30—2:30 p.m.,
Monday-Thursday
Closed Friday***

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