

## *Seventh Sunday After Pentecost*

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
July 16, 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 the 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 the parts 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**

Gathering Hymn: "What Is This Place"

#524, Page 4

## What Is This Place

1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the  
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in  
 3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a

earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,  
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders  
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,

win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives  
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak  
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive

when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.  
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.  
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933

Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandisch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, b. 1906

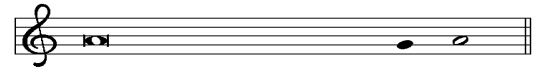
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## Greeting

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

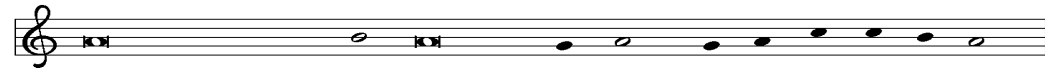
**And also with you.**



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.



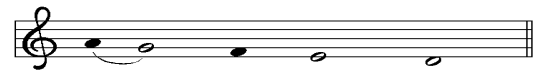
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



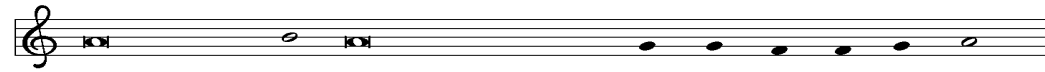
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.**

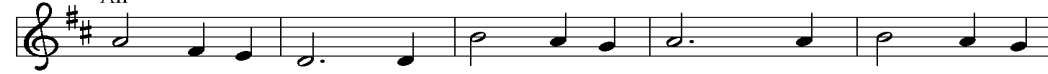
## Canticle of Praise

*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.*

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*We sit.*

## **Word**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13**

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**Psalm: Psalm 65:1-13**

*We read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed,

<sup>2</sup>**O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.**

<sup>5</sup>By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

<sup>6</sup>**By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.

<sup>10</sup>**You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

<sup>12</sup>**The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,**

<sup>13</sup>the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the  
valleys  
deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

*We stand.*





## Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

A reading from Romans:

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

**Children's Message**

**Pastor Van Stee**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Van Stee**

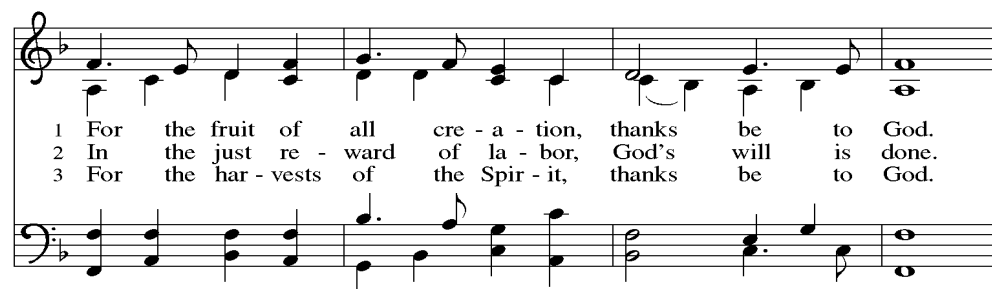
*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*We stand.*

**Hymn of the Day:** "For the Fruit of All Creation"

**#679, Page 11**

## For the Fruit of All Creation



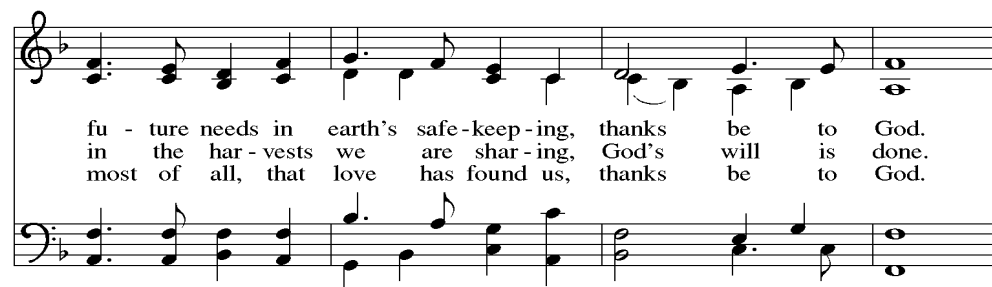
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
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 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

*Each portion of the prayers end with these words*

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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.

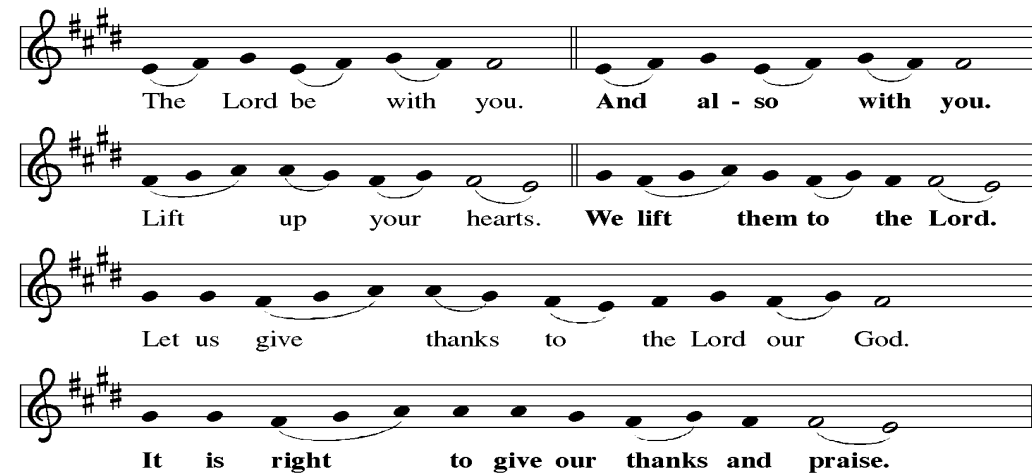
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## Offering Prayer

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.**

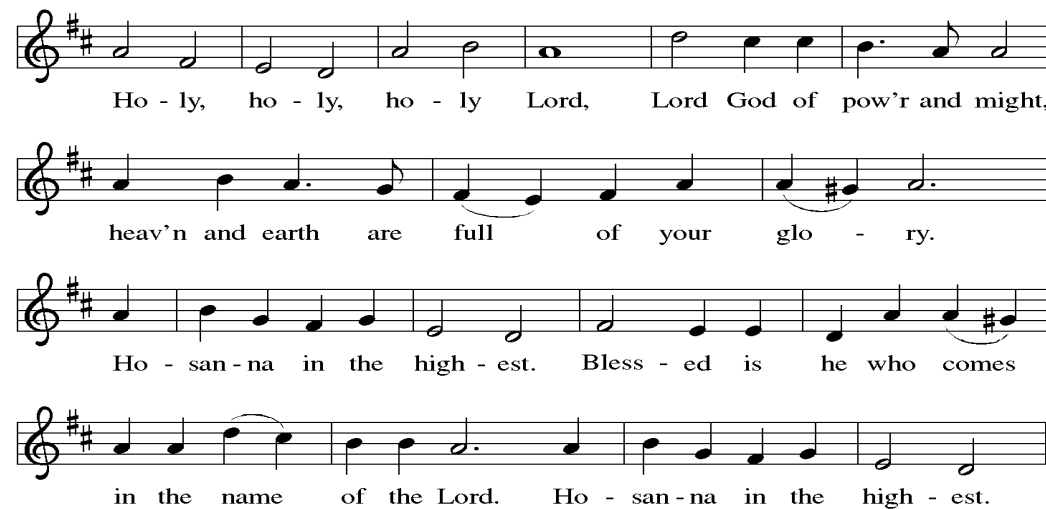
## Great Thanksgiving



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.**

## 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:



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.

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.

The  
LORD'S  
Prayer

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)***

***Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle. Receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister, then turn to the side you have sat on, and receive the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant at the altar rail. Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your pew via the side aisle.***

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**

### 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**

### Farewell and Godspeed

#### 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.**

**Sending Song:** *"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"*

**#547, Page 20**

#### Dismissal

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

#### Postlude

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
 the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now

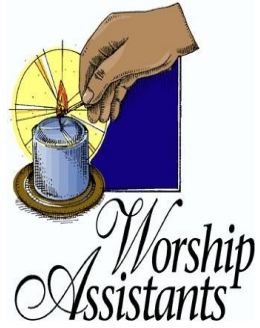
reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
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**Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today**

<b>Altar Flowers:</b>	Gail Johnson
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Kathy Meicke
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Cathy Crowder
<b>Communion Assistant:</b>	Robin Crowder Linda Meyer
<b>Council Person of the Week:</b>	Jean Morgan
<b>Offering Steward:</b>	Pat Brady David Proctor
<b>Ushers:</b>	Ron Almarode Lee Lynch



*Chancel flowers this morning are  
given to the glory of God  
and in memory of  
Myrtle F. Reid by her daughter,  
Dawn E. Reid*

**Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons**

**July 23, 2023**  
***Eighth Sunday After Pentecost***  
**Holy Communion**  
10:00 a.m.

**Pastor Paul Pingel**  
Presiding and Preaching

Isaiah 44:6-8  
Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



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)

Claire Biggers

Susan Myers

Lisa Gray

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

Taunya McDonald, Friend from Christ Tabernacle

Sophie Wilson, Friend of Donna Gum

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

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

Marge Cloutier

Sandy Johnson

Kathy Johnson

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

Natalie Dodge (2 year old cancer patient), Friend of the Almarodes

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

Arta Smith, Friend of the Bumps

Sue Smoot, Friend of the Radeckes

Kay Truslow, Friend of the Trauschts

*Continued*

**Members/Friends Grieving (Remain on List for four (4) weeks\*)**

**Family of Doris Beck, Friend of the Pingels**  
**The Family and Friends of Laura DeLapp, Friend of Cindy Trauschts**  
**Family of Matthew Lang, Friend of Many Grace Members**  
**Family of Tim Smith, Brother of Rev. Pat Nabers**  
**Family of Officer Mark "Chris" Wagner II**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays**

**Sandra Brady (7/17)**  
**Bill Lucas (7/21)**

**Ethan Lynch (7/19)**  
**Kelly Rankin (7/22)**

**Al McKechnie (7/22)**

**The Needs of the World**

**Numerous storms and damage, from the  
Northeast to Texas**

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

**The Church**

**Grace's Strategic Planning**

The United Methodist Church and our  
neighbor UMC churches in  
Waynesboro

**Virginia Synod Bishop-Elect  
Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton**

**Our Neighbors**

**Our Neighbors in the Berkeley Glenn  
Area**



**Pastor Karen Van Stee** preaches and presides this morning as Pastor Paul and family conclude their vacation tomorrow. Many thanks to Pastor Karen for sharing her calling to Word and Sacrament ministry with Grace!



**Farewell and Godspeed** - We bid Jered Stratton and Marit Bakken farewell and godspeed as they move to Pittsburgh, PA for Marit to begin her work as a veterinarian. Jered and Marit have been generous with their considerable talents in music - voice, guitar, piano - that they both have shared with Grace, as well as their regular participation in the life of Grace. The Lord bless and keep them!



**Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event-** Grace is coordinating a **Rise Against Hunger** food packing event with some area churches. The event will be held on **Saturday September 9** at Kate Collins Middle School in Waynesboro. It will start at 10 am and be completed in about two hours. The last event Grace coordinated was pre-covid and there were over 20,000 meals packed. The event is a fun morning with a variety of processing stations including mixing food, weighing food packages, sealing food packages, packing boxes of bagged food and runners who move items to each station. It is an event that everyone can help with. Grace Mission Outreach Team will be using a grant that we received from the Mission Endowment to help support this event. Watch for signup sheets coming in August or you can register online at [events.riseagainsthunger.org/Waynesboro2023](https://events.riseagainsthunger.org/Waynesboro2023). Our goal for the event is to pack 20,000 to 25,000 meals based on support from area churches. Remember to bring a hat or baseball cap because we are packing food. They do provide hairnets. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry or Gwen Kite.







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 Judi Goodrich, Linda Meyer, 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.



**Project Esperanza Fund Drive Update-** Last year, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ worked together to donate \$5,520 to Project Esperanza. This year, our goal was to raise \$6,000, enough money to support ten Haitian refugee students for a full year. With one month to go, we are delighted to announce that we have surpassed our goal and have raised nearly enough money (\$50 to go) to sponsor 12 children! The \$7,150 in pledges and donations represents \$2,000 from the Grace Endowment Fund, \$2,500 from Christ Tabernacle members and \$2,650 from Grace members. Thanks to all who have contributed so generously.

Grace members can still contribute directly to the Church, noting the money is contributed to support Project Esperanza as a memo. We will collect funds throughout the summer, 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 (DR) in the areas of education, social aid, and community development. The project runs two schools serving 275 Haitian immigrant children in the Dominican Republic. More information is available at the project's web site: <https://esperanzameanshope.org/>



**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.



**Life of Grace Church**  
**July 16-23, 2023**

Day of the Week	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	07/16	10:00 a.m.	<b>Pastor—Vacation</b> <b>Seventh Sunday After Pentecost</b> Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube <b>Pastor Karen Van Stee</b> , Preaching and Presiding
Monday	07/17		<b>Pastor—Vacation</b>
Tuesday	07/18	7:00 p.m.	<b>Council Meeting</b> (Conference Room)
Wednesday	07/19	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>Prayer Group</b> (Chapel) <b>Yoga</b> (Seminar Room)
Thursday	07/20	8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	<b>Grace Walkers</b> <b>Bridge Club</b> (Fellowship Hall)
Friday	07/21		
Saturday	07/22	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Yoga</b> (Fellowship Hall) <b>Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconciliation</b> (North Park)
Sunday	07/23	10:00 a.m.	<b>Eighth Sunday After Pentecost</b> Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube <b>Pastor Paul Pingel</b> , Preaching and Presiding

**Monday**

1 Samuel 5:1-12  
 Acts 5:12-26  
 Luke 21:29-36  
 Morning Psalm 145, Evening 9

**Thursday**

1 Samuel 8:1-22  
 Acts 6:15-7:16  
 Luke 22:24-30  
 Morning Psalm 147:13-21, Evening 130

**Tuesday**

1 Samuel 6:1-16  
 Acts 5:27-42  
 Luke 21:37—22:13  
 Morning Psalm 146, Evening 7

**Friday**

1 Samuel 9:1-14  
 Acts 7:17-29  
 Luke 22:31-38  
 Morning Psalm 148, Evening 40

**Wednesday**

1 Samuel 7:2-17  
 Acts 6:1-15  
 Luke 22:14-23  
 Morning Psalm 147:1-12, Evening 134

**Saturday**

1 Samuel 9:15—10:1  
 Acts 7:30-43  
 Luke 22:39-51  
 Morning Psalm 149, Evening 90

## **Grace Church Council**

*Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180)*

*Allison Fink, Vice-President (540-448-0985)*

*Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176), 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](mailto:pastorpingel@gmail.com)**

**Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music, Email: [mickhdking@aol.com](mailto:mickhdking@aol.com)**

**Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary, Email: [Grace.lc@comcast.net](mailto:Grace.lc@comcast.net)**

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

*[facebook.com/gelc.elca](https://www.facebook.com/gelc.elca)*

*[youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro](https://www.youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro)*

*Internet: [www.gracewaynesboro.org](http://www.gracewaynesboro.org)*

**Telephone: 540.949.6171**