

We have
peace with
God
through
our
Lord
Jesus Christ.
R O M A N S 5 : 1

A decorative graphic consisting of several stylized purple flowers of varying sizes, arranged in a cluster on the left side of the text.

Third Sunday After Pentecost

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
June 18, 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

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

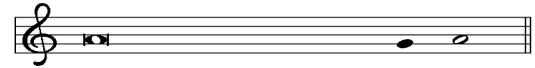
Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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.



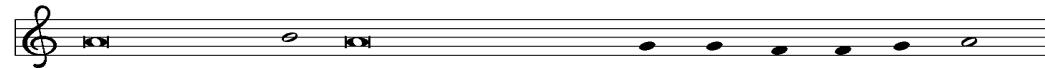
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

We sit.

Word



First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

A reading from Exodus:

²[The Israelites] had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ^{8a}The people all answered as one: “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 100

We read responsively

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**²Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

³Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.**

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

A reading from Romans:

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in
our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and
character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been
poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will
anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually
dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

Continued

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]

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

We sit.

Children’s Message

Pastor Karen Van Stee

Sermon

Pastor Karen Van Stee

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

We stand.

In Christ Called to Baptize

1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace
 2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,
 3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach
 4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,

and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.
 a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.
 the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.
 for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.

In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,
 Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.
 By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise
 E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.

then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.
 One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.
 in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.
 In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876, alt.
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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.

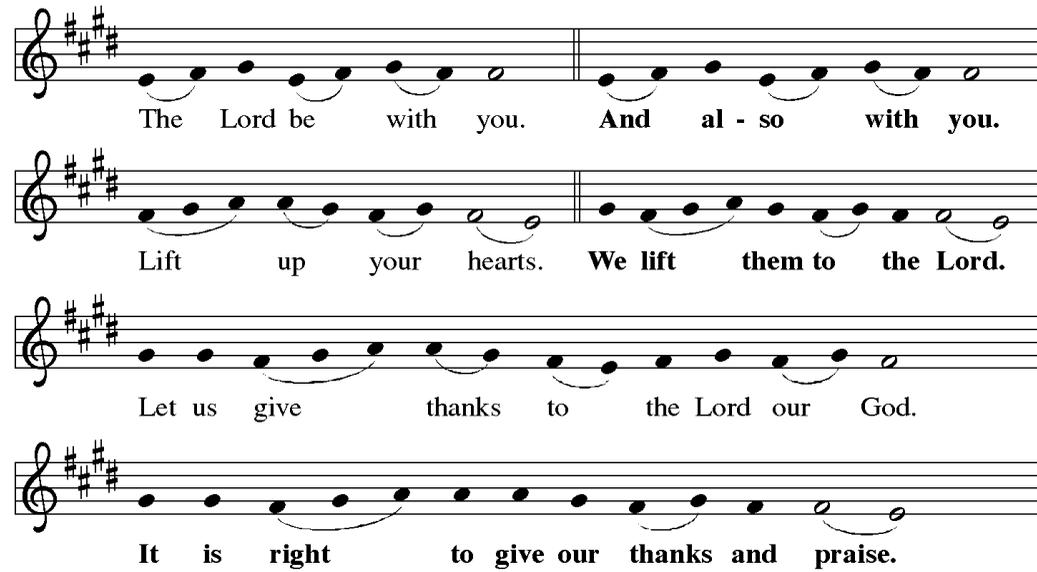
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Offering Prayer

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.

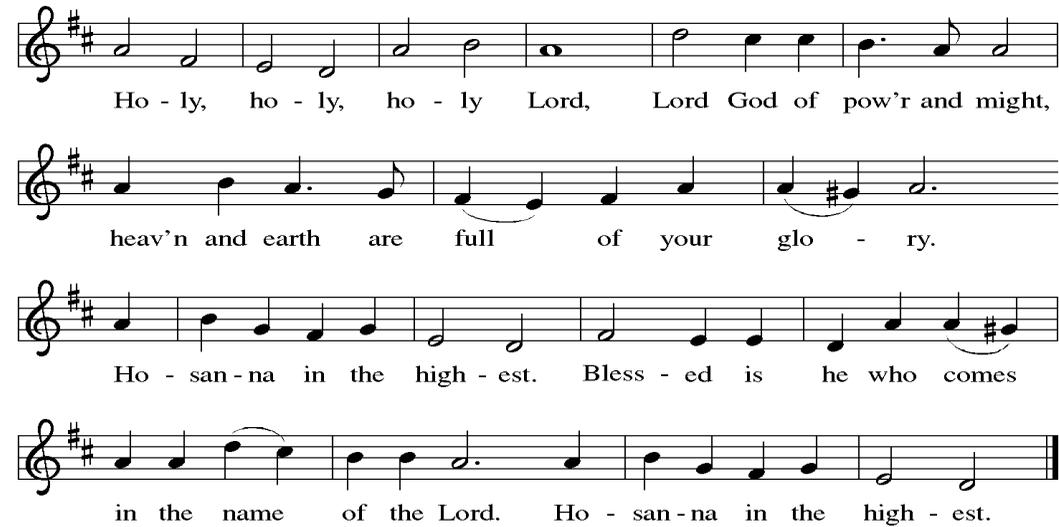
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes with slurs, and the music ends with a double bar line.

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.

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)

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.

We stand

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

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: *"O Zion, Haste*

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Dismissal

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

Postlude

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O Zion, Haste

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
 2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion,
 3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,

to tell to all the world that God is light;
 that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
 make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
 tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
 let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,

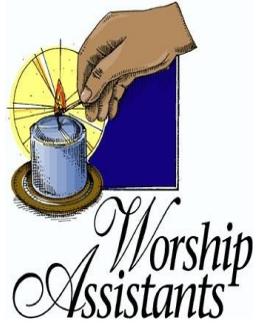
one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
 and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
 through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain

Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,

tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923
 Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Welch, 1837–1901



Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

Altar Flowers:	Gail Johnson
Altar Guild:	Jane Stein
Assisting Minister:	Mike Trauscht
Communion Assistant:	Donna Gum Carolyn Hite
Council Person of the Week:	Allison Fink
Offering Steward:	Pat Brady Vivian Proctor
Ushers:	Jerry Kite Maella Hilker Gail Johnson



*Chancel flowers this morning
are given to the glory of our Lord in memory
of Leonard C. Reid, Jr. And Jack E. Johnson
by their children*

Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

June 25, 2023

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Paul Pingel

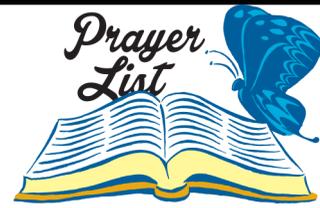
Presiding and Preaching

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-10 (11-15) 16-18

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39



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)

Lisa Gray

David Proctor

Susan Myers

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

Shirley Gilmnett, Friend of the Lynches

Heather Bolden Guinn, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson

Jen Kearney, Friend to Many at Grace

Maxine McKinney, Friend of Grace

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

Kathy Johnson

Sandy Johnson

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

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

Continued

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends Continued

(Remain on List for three (3) months)

Kirsten Schwiesow, Daughter of David and Nancy Schwiesow

Arta Smith, Friend of the Bumps

Sue Smoot, Friend of the Radeckes

Kay Truslow, Friend of the Trauschts

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

Family of Timothy Bradford, Friend of Grace from Christ Tabernacle

Family of Bucky Lang, Friend of the Trauschts and Nancy Dowdy

Family of Jimmy Owens, Member of Grace

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Mark Radecke (6/16)

Jessi Blosser (6/20)

Gwen Kite (6/21)

Elizabeth Caister (6/21)

Kara Glover (6/22)

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 shootings 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



A **big thank you** to Maxine McKinney for being our guest musician today.



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!



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.



Pastor Paul Away - Pastor is traveling to Newfoundland 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.



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.



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.



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/>



"Thanks to all for providing support (prayers, meals, snacks, supplies, coordination, STAIR BUILDING, check-in, check-out, and more) for this year's Hiker Ministry. Grace hostel closed for the season yesterday, Saturday June 17. Not as many hikers as in previous years, but a very appreciative group - as always! Until next year...Irma Graf



Life of Grace Church
June 18-25, 2023

Day of the Week	Date	Time	Event
	06/18	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. <i>The Pastor Will Be Away...</i> 	Pastor on Vacation June 12-19 Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room) Third Sunday After Pentecost Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Rev. Karen Van Stee , Presiding
Monday	06/19		
Tuesday	06/20	7:00 p.m.	Nancy Dowdy on Vacation— Carolyn Hite in Church Office Council Meeting (Conference Room)
Wednesday	06/21	10:00—3:00 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	 Nancy Dowdy on Vacation— Carolyn Hite in Church Office Encircle Meeting (Fellowship Hall) Prayer Group (Chapel) Yoga (Seminar Room)
Thursday	06/22	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Noon 6:00 p.m.	Nancy Dowdy on Vacation— Carolyn Hite in Church Office Grace Walkers Jimmy Owens Service Reception (Fellowship Hall) CCE&J Zoom Meeting
Friday	06/23		
Saturday	06/24	11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday	06/25	10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday After Pentecost Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Paul Pingel , Preaching and Presiding Baptism—Malachi Dolan New Member Affirmation of Baptism

Monday

Deuteronomy 11:13-19
 2 Corinthians 5:11—6:2
 Luke 17:1-10
 Morning Psalm 62, Evening 73

**Thursday**

Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 17:14-20
 2 Corinthians 8:1-16
 Luke 18:1-8
 Morning Psalm 116, Evening 26

Tuesday

Deuteronomy 12:1-12
 2 Corinthians 6:3-13 (14—7:1)
 Luke 17:11-19
 Morning Psalm 12, Evening 36

Friday

Deuteronomy 16:1-11
 2 Corinthians 8:16-24
 Luke 18:9-14
 Morning Psalm 84, Evening 25

Wednesday

Deuteronomy 13:1-11
 2 Corinthians 7:2-16
 Luke 17:20-37
 Morning Psalm 96, Evening 132

Saturday

Deuteronomy 29:2-15
 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
 Luke 18:15-30
 Morning Psalm 63, Evening 125

Grace 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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