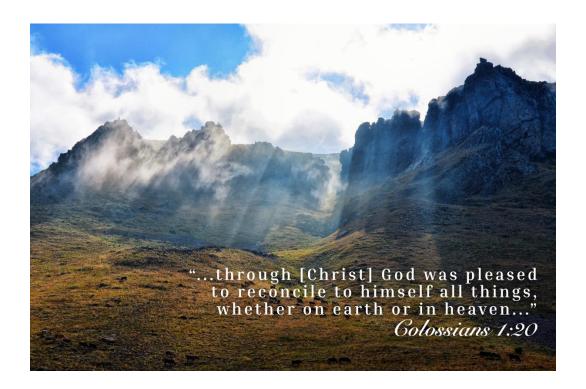
Order of Worship 6th Sunday after Pentecost July 20, 2025



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 745 S. Ingraham Avenue Lakeland, FL 33801 863-686-5585

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz, Pastor Email: pastor@gracelakeland.com www.gracelakeland.com

6th Sunday after Pentecost. Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Meditation on "Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

Paul Fey

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
You call us to practice justice and mercy,
but we remain entangled in systems of oppression
that we do not always see.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Heal us, free us from sin,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

You belong to Christ, and through faith, you are united in God's mercy.

In the cross of \pm Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

Clothed in Christ, renewed by grace, you are made whole for the life of the world. **Amen.**



*APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

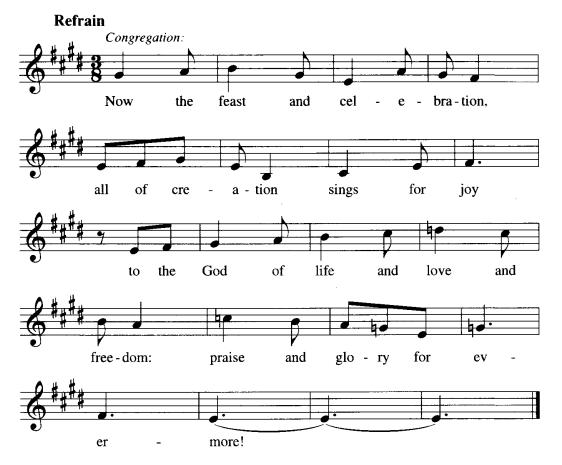
And also with you.

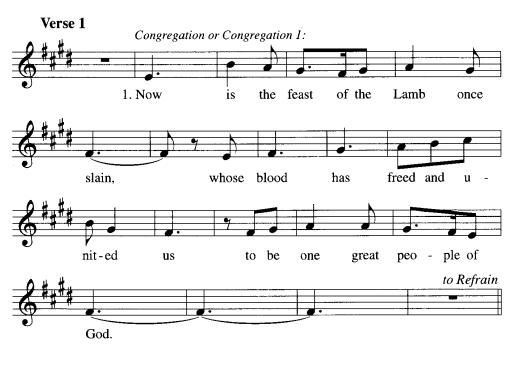
*KYRIE (Continued on next page)

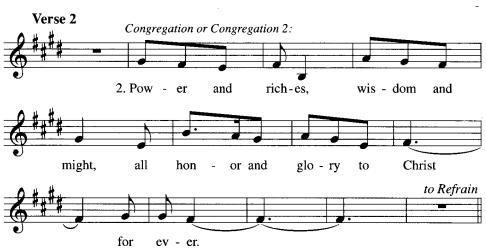


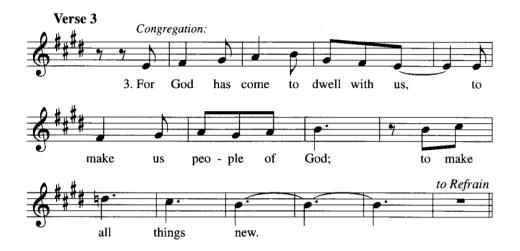


*HYMN OF PRAISE (Continued on next pages)









*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together.

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and

milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ^{10a} Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15 (Read Responsively)

- ¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?
- ² Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;
- ³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
- ⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.
- ⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

 Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-29

¹⁵ [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the

hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

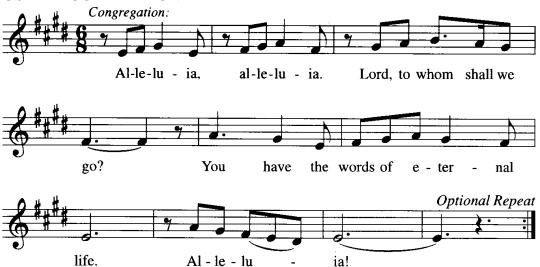
²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil and strive with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

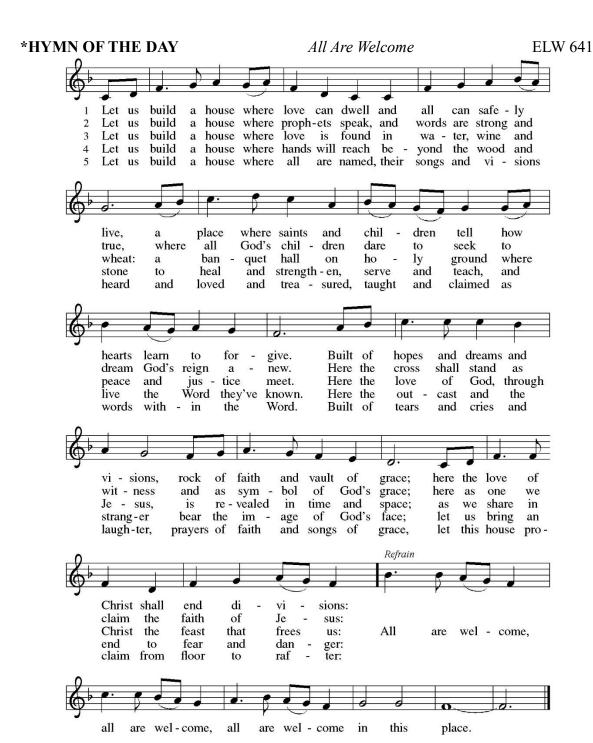
Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz



*APOSTLE'S CREED

We now profess the faith we share using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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,

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome all as we have been welcomed by you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach us to honor and protect all creation. Inspire and amplify the voices of climate scientists. Protect those in areas vulnerable to drought, floods, and storms of every kind. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Through Christ you reconcile all things. Motivate those in power to end enslavement, dehumanization, and brutality of every kind and to protect and improve the lives of Indigenous peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you bring peace. Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence. Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit, especially those we name before you now, whether silently or aloud, including: Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Barbara, Ann, Julie, Rita, Carol, Anne, Judy, Tom, Lydia, Brian, James & Grace, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Barbara, Scott, Lynda, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Tom & Leona, Avery, Doris, John, Tim, Arleen, Betty, Linda, Jeff, Henry, Gary, Greg, Helen & Ron, and Max & Michelle. Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers. God of grace, hear our prayer.

In Christ you make your Word fully known. Inspire us at Grace to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Bless the ministry of teachers and Bible study leaders and all who study. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In Christ you brought forth the firstborn from the dead. We give thanks for the saints you have gathered at your table. Gather us with them in your eternal glory. God of grace, hear our prayer.

(Other petitions may be offered)

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Gift of Love

arr. by Hal H. Hopson



*OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful.

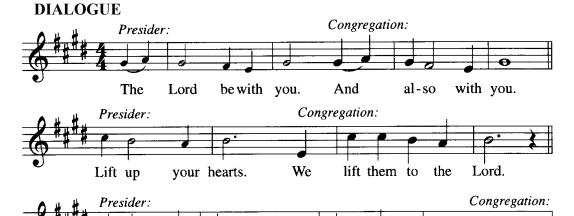
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

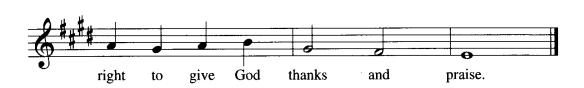
Amen.

give thanks

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Let us





to the

Lord

our

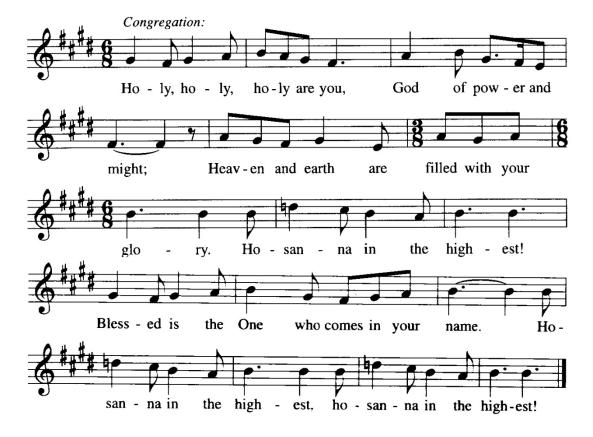
God.

It

*PREFACE

It is our duty and delight
that we should everywhere and always
offer thanks and praise to you, oh God,
through Jesus Christ;
who calls us to follow his way
of humble service and love.
And so, with the church on earth,
all creation and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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 handed over, 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 the 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 await 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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

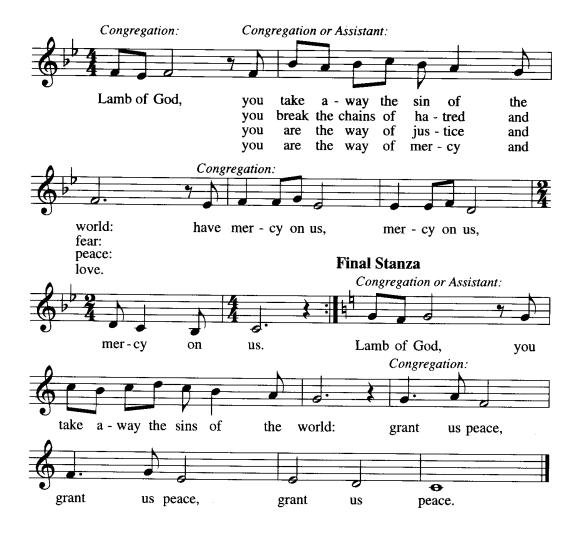
The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

The baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the communion rail where we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Gluten free bread and grape juice are available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and Pastor will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. You may wish to remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN(S)

Jesus, the Very Thought of You Be Thou My Vision (next page) ELW 754 ELW 793



- 1 Je sus, the ver y thought of you fills us with sweet de light;
- 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re call
- 3 O Hope of ev 'ry con trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
- 4 O Je sus, be our joy to day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."



*POST 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.

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.



*BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit of Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

arr. Michael Burkhardt

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