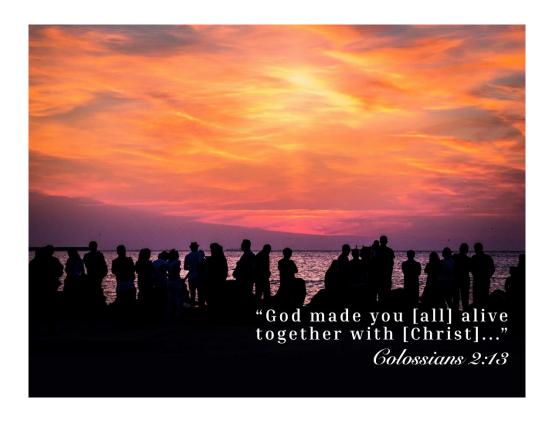
Order of Worship 7th Sunday after Pentecost July 27, 2025



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

7th Sunday after Pentecost. Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

A.L. Peace, arr. Cindy Berry

*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.

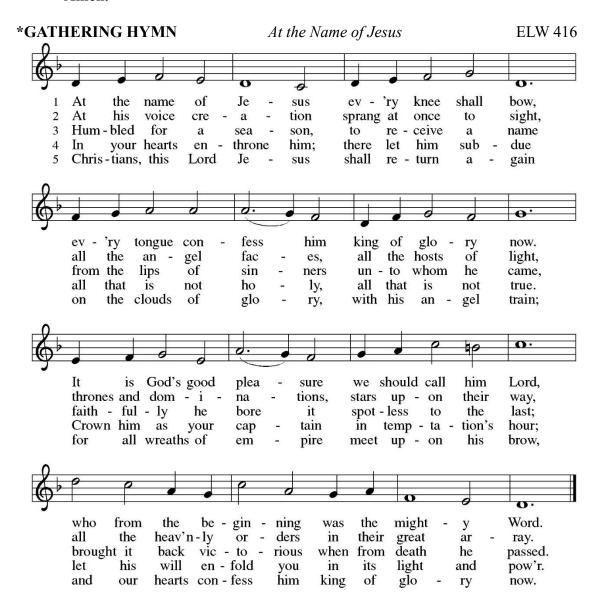
Silence is kept for reflection.

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 + 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.

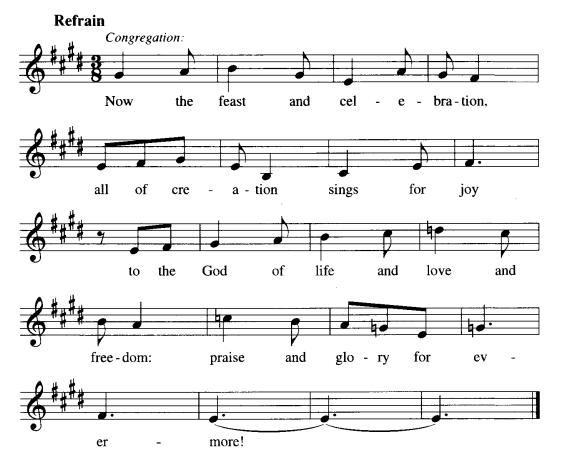
And also with you.

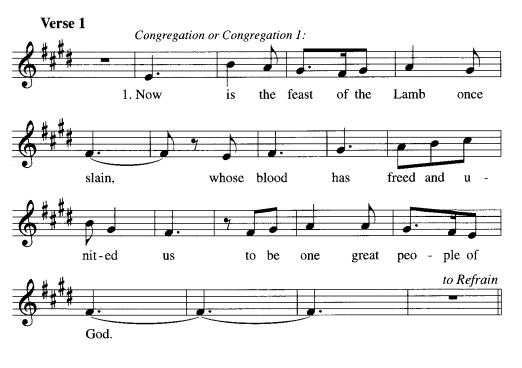
*KYRIE (Continued on next page)

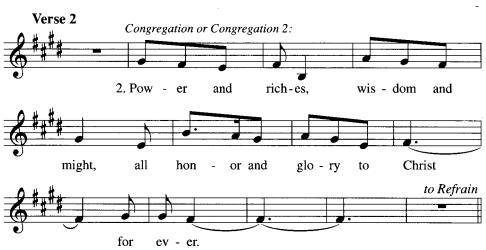


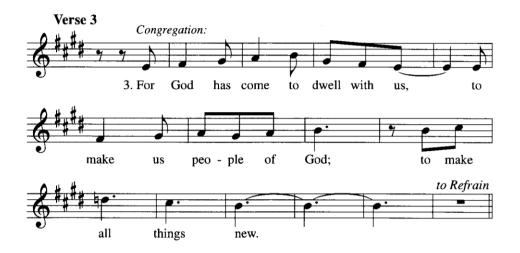


*HYMN OF PRAISE (Continued on next pages)









*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour out upon us your abundant mercy, and the presence of your Son through the power of your Spirit who lives and reigns with you, one God now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰ Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the

whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138 (Read Responsively)

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ² I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

- ³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴ All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.
- ⁶ The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
 - ⁸ You will make good your purpose for me;
- O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

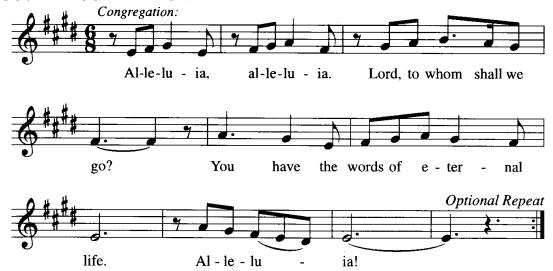
⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz

Silence is kept for reflection.



for

the good - ness of

Lord.

the

thanks-giv - ing

be

*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,

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

the forgiveness of sins,

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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. We pray for our Bishop, Pedro, and the work of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Bless all who gather for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly this week, and guide them in the wisdom of your Spirit. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs, especially those we name before you now, whether silently or aloud, including: Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Barbara, Ann, Julie, 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. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Praise Ye

Giuseppe Verdi

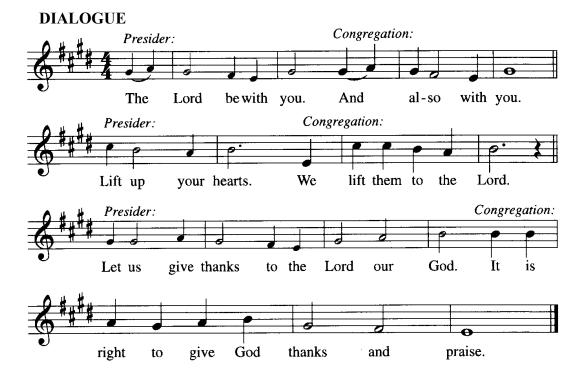


*OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

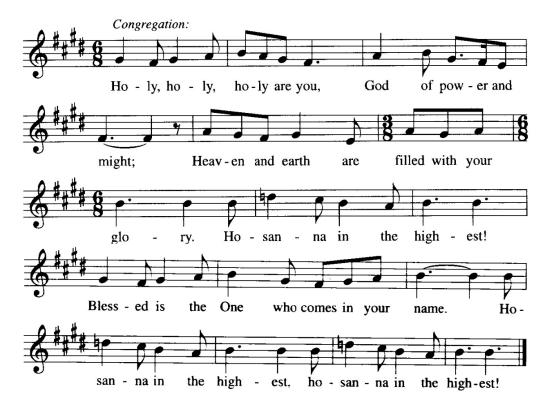
*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



*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:

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

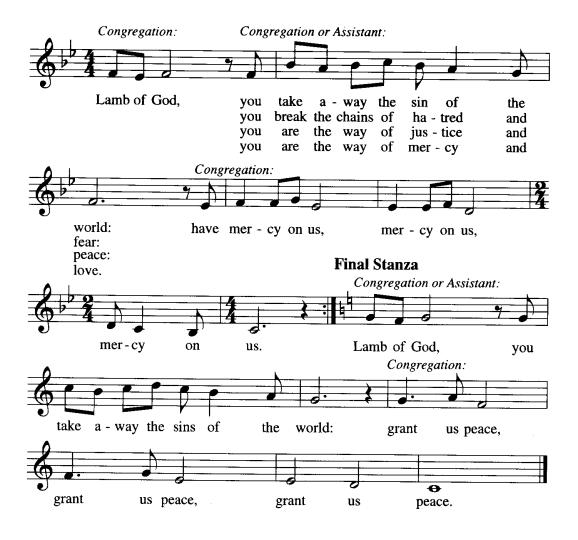
The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

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



Come and Fill Our Hearts Confitemini Domino



Day by Day



help me bear life's pain and sor-row till in glo-ry I be-hold your face. with your pres-ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom-ised land.

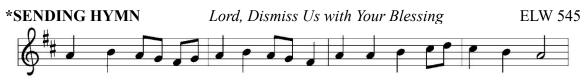
*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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.



- Lord, dis miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad o ra tion for your gos pel's joy ful sound.
- 3 Sav ior, when your love shall call us from our strug-gling pil grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri-umph in re - deem-ing grace. May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound. let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum-mons to o - bey.



Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful May we ev - er, may we ev - er trav-'ling through this wil-der-ness. to your truth may we be found. reign with you in end-less day.

*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

Neo-Classique

M. Hayes

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