Order of Worship

14th Sunday after Pentecost September 14, 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

14th Sunday after Pentecost. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Martin Luther's Morning Prayer

Carl Schalk

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of 中 Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**



Come Thou Fount

ELW 807



- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
- 2 Here I raise my Eb en e zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise. and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home. let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love, Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God; Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove. he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

*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.



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray together:

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you, and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

1 Timothy 1:12-17

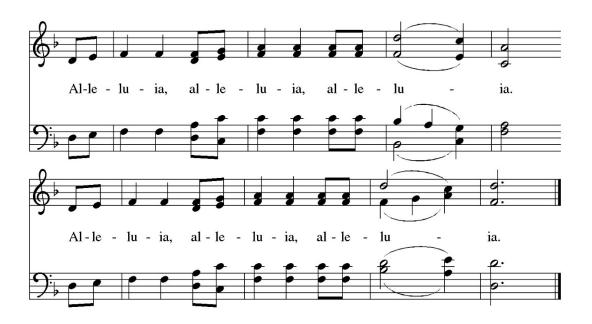
¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz



Holy God, Holy & Glorious

ELW 637





glo - ry most sub - lime, you come as one a mong us with - out weak - ness; pow - er peer, bend us in you to beau-ty un - sur - passed, de-spised, re ject are you ed; wis-dom of choose the way great price, you ly: of fol show your love by life that nev - er ends. you dy ing,



time, and we be - hold in to hu - man emp - tied, you near, and we be - hold draw scorned, you hold and we be - hold us fast, fied, and we be - hold God the cru - ci ing your friends, and we be - hold dy for

your glo - ry.
your pow - er.
your beau - ty.
your wis - dom.
you liv - ing.

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

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all that you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain, especially *Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Barbara, Ann, Julie, Carol, Anne, Judy, Tom, Lydia, Brian, James & Grace, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Barbara, Scott, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Tom & Leona, Avery, Doris, John, Abby, Tim, Arleen, Betty, Linda, Jeff, Henry, Gary, Greg, Helen & Ron, and Max & Michelle. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting, and give us courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace, receive our prayer.*

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another, and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered whether silently or aloud.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

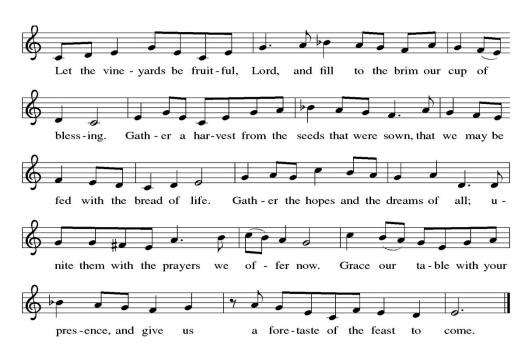
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 182



*OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope, not on the uncertainty of riches,

but on you, who so richly provides for us.

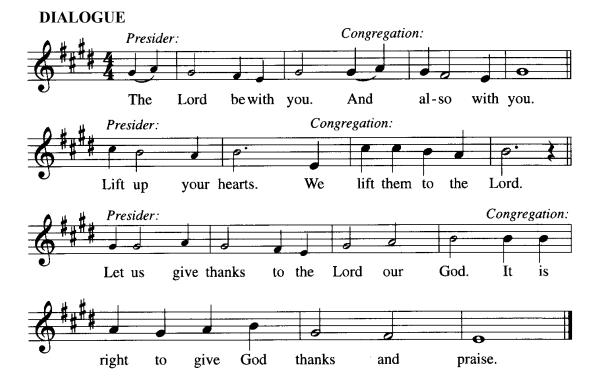
Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

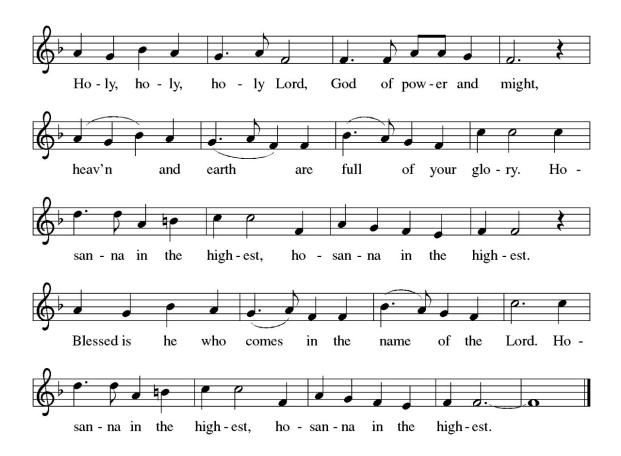
Amen.

*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:



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 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:



*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

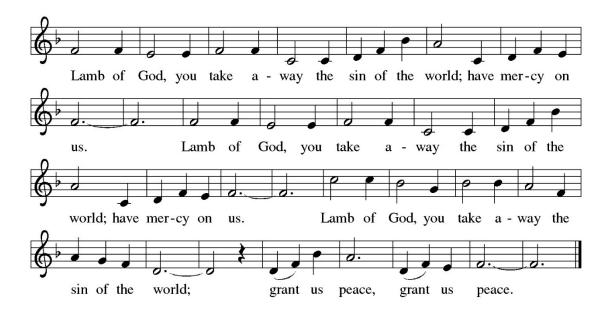
Come to the meal of mercy.

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.

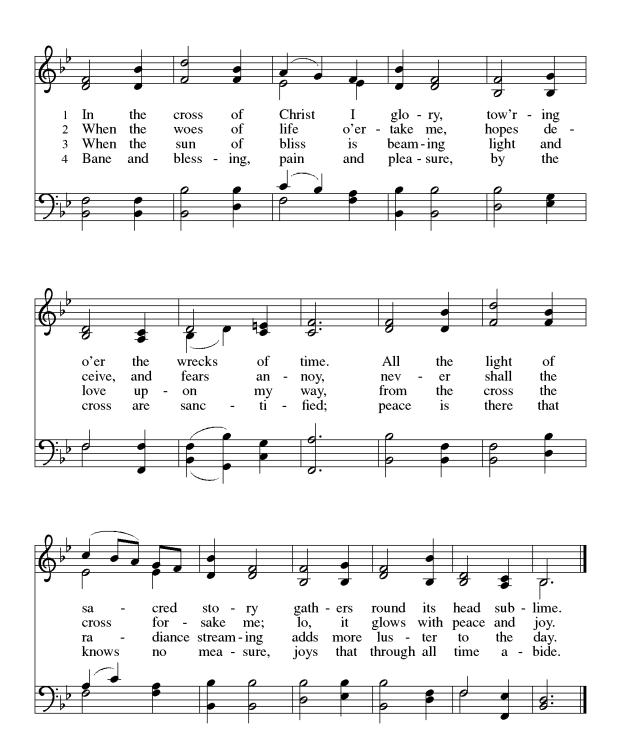
LAMB OF GOD ELW s195





When I Survey the Wondrous Cross In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW 803 ELW 324





*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 together:

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

FAREWELL & GODSPEED

Judy & Rusty Washburn

Judy, Rusty: as you leave this community for Reston, Virginia, we wish to send you with God's blessing.

A reading from Jeremiah: For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future, with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for Judy and Rusty. You have called us together in community, and now we prepare to say farewell. As they have been a blessing to us, so too may they be a blessing to others wherever they go. Sustain them with hope, courage, and trust that your Holy Spirit will always be with them, through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Go forth with good courage and with our love. God's Spirit is with you always. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

Go My Children, With My Blessing

ELW 543



- 1 "Go, my chil dren, with my bless-ing, nev er a lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil dren, sins for giv en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil dren, fed and nour-ished, clos er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, am with you, Ι you are own. my you learned how much I love you, Here what Ι can cure. by serv-ing, love and ioy -Grow in love ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er. Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry. Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."

Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

*BENEDICTION

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Your Grace Is Enough

Matt Maher

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