

Order of Worship
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025



The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.
Psalm 98:9

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

23rd Sunday after Pentecost. The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

arr. 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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths.
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression, and do not embrace the
freedom of your faithful promises.
We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth.
We reject your abundance,
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.
Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts, and bring us to new life.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
God the Faithful One loves you,
† in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.
Amen.



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand?"
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

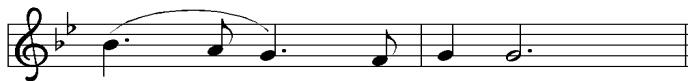
***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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)*



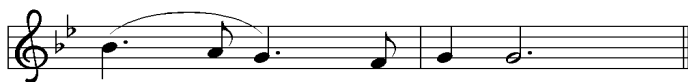
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



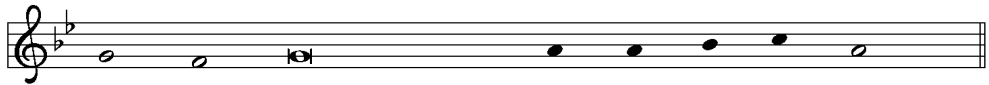
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

***GLORIA** (*Continued on next page*)



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



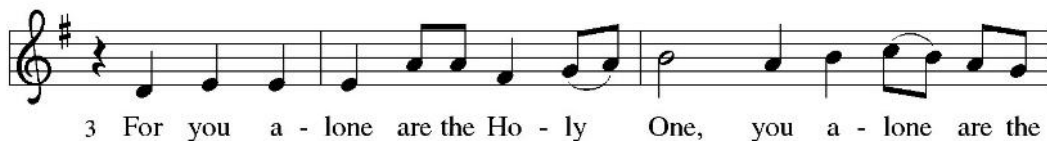
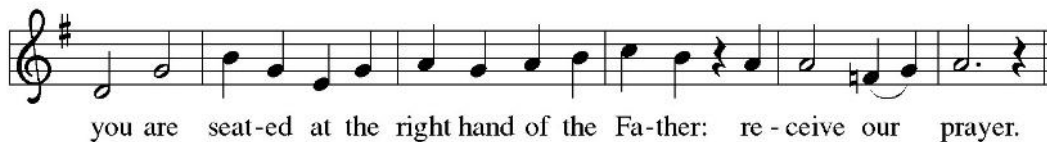
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together:

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary, without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

Malachi 4:1-2a

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98 (*We will read the Psalm responsively, by whole verse.*)

¹ Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

² **O Lord, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵ Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹ The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING:

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

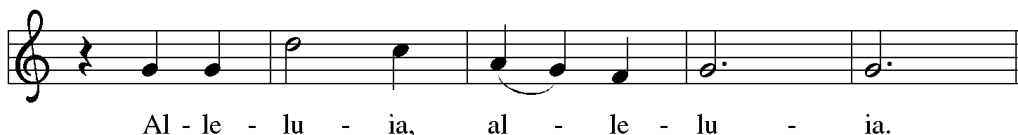
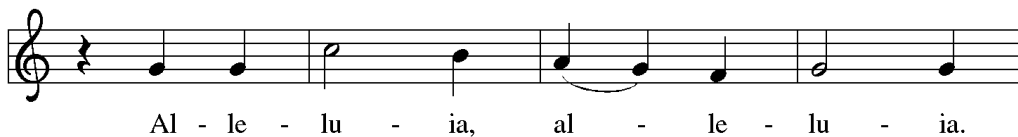
⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was

not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

We stand for the reading of the Gospel.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

***GOSPEL:**

Luke 21:5-19

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz

Silence is kept for reflection.



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

***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**

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ’s call. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters, especially Jamaica, Cuba, and the Philippines. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to those in crisis. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and militaries. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind, especially *Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Ann, Julie, Rita, Carol, Anne, Judy, Tom, Lydia, Brian, James & Grace, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Barbara, Scott, Lynda, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Avery, Doris, John, Abby, Mike, Tim, Arleen, Betty, Linda, Jeff, Henry, Gary, Greg, Helen & Ron, and Max & Michelle.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable communities where all are valued. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

GRATITUDE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rise Up, O Men of God

Walter

***OFFERING SONG**

If We Live, We Live to the Lord

ACS 1025

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'If we live, we live to the Lord. If we die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's.' The score includes triplet markings over the words 'wheth-er' on the second and third lines.

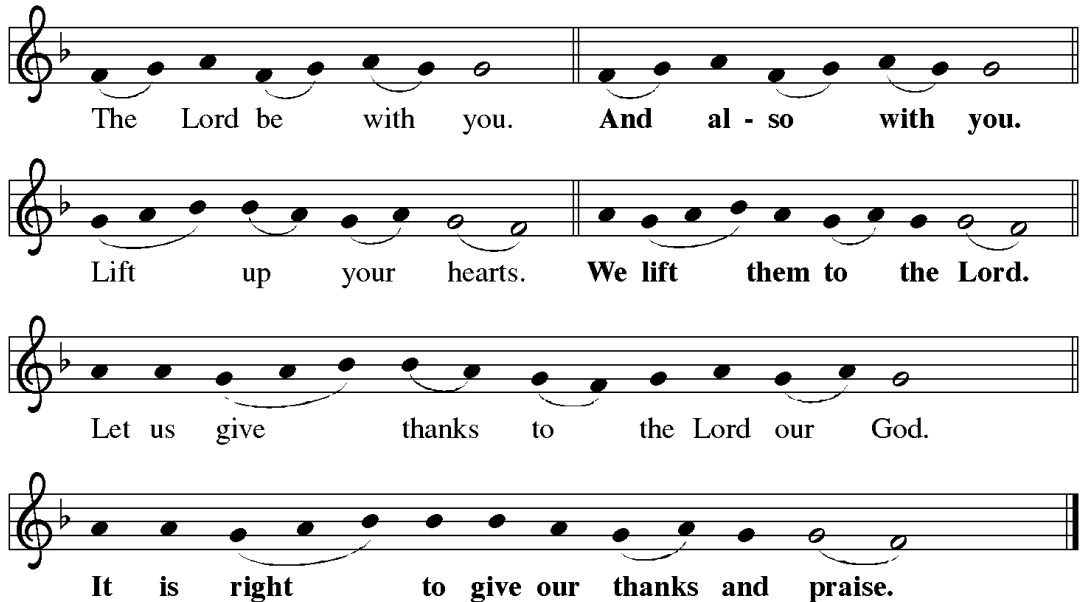
If we live, we live to the Lord. If we
die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or
wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us
and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body
of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever.
Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



The musical notation for the Dialogue section consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, and the lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves do not have double bar lines.

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:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



 might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The first staff of music is written on a treble clef. It contains the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), B5 (quarter), C6 (half). The lyrics "Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -" are aligned under the notes. There is a fermata over the final note, C6.

san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age, you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

There is a place for you at the table of God.
Come, receive the food that does not perish,
a taste of life eternal.
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

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.

COMMUNION HYMN(S)

Bread of Life from Heaven
Soon And Very Soon
(Next page)

ELW 474
ELW 439

Refrain

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,

we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this

thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with

Refrain

sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.



- 1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

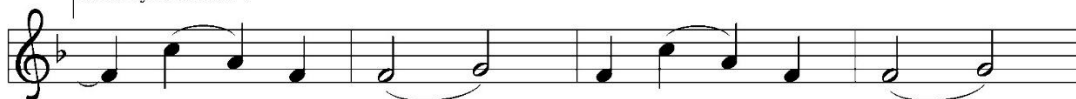


soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

*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.

**God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven
that gives life to the world.**

**Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who
hunger and thirst,
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.
Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

*BENEDICTION

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
The holy Trinity bless you ✝
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.
Amen.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

arr. H. Alexander Matthews

PERMISSIONS

Liturgical Text and Music from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006, 2020, 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS016761. All rights reserved.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten (If You But Trust in God to Guide You), Tune: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681. Arr. Paul Fey, b. 1998. Arr. © 2022 Paul Fey. All rights reserved.

How Firm a Foundation, Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. Music: Early American. Public domain.

Thine the Amen, Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926-2009, Music: Carl Schalk, 1929-2021. Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

Rise Up, O Men of God, Words: William Pierson Merrill, 1867-1954. Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893. Arr. Margaret Shelley, 1925-2008, and David Foltz, 1911-1992. Arr. © 1953 Mills Music, Inc. All rights reserved.

If We Live, We Live in the Lord, Text and Music: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955. Text and Music © 2009, 2016 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing. Text, James Weldon Johnson, 1900. Public Domain.

Bread of Life from Heaven, Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, Music: Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b.1950, stanzas. Text and music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc. Text and music reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

Soon and Very Soon, Text and Music: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945. Words and Music © 1971 Bud John Songs, Inc.; Crouch Music Corp. admin Capitol CMG Publishing. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under CCLI License # 2241477. All rights reserved.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: William Croft, 1678-1727. Public domain.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Tune: William Croft, 1678-1727, arr. H. Alexander Matthews, 1879-1973, in *Twelve Choral Preludes on Familiar Hymn Tunes for Organ*. Arr. © 1946 Oliver Ditson Company. Streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

Grace Lutheran livestreams our worship services over Facebook, YouTube, or other platforms and has them available for later viewing through our website. We may also use still photography of church activities for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence with us, you acknowledge that you may be photographed, and you consent to our use of it for these purposes. The video capture of congregants is minimal and will usually be from the back. If you want to be sure that you will not be shown on any video, we recommend sitting near the back on the left side of the sanctuary.

Scan this Tithe.ly QR code with your phone camera to send an offering to Grace.



Council Representatives		Ministries	
Terry Neal	Acting President	The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz	<i>Pastor</i>
	Stewardship		(863) 529-1229
Barbara Carpanini	Corp. Secretary		pastor@gracelakeland.com
Marty Lewis	Treasurer	Kandyn Mathes	<i>Admin. Assistant</i>
James Irish	Rec. Secretary		(863) 686-5585
Mary Flekke	Financial Secretary		church@gracelakeland.com
Kristen Storms	Christian Ed.	Lynda Mack	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Naomi Thomsen	Finance		Lynda.mackcpa@yahoo.com
	Memorial		(863) 660-5859
Laura Blanchette	Cong. Care	Mary Flekke	<i>Bell Choir Director</i>
Dan Stoller	Social Ministry		mflekke@tampabay.rr.com
Marty Lewis	Worship/Music		(863) 660-1156
Jon Thiele		Art Pranno	<i>Choir Director</i>
		Gene Hodges	<i>Organist</i>
		Rita Fandrich	<i>Pianist</i>
		Marty Lewis	<i>Worship Band Director</i>
			drmslewis@gmail.com
			(863) 648-4770
		Church Website	www.gracelakeland.com