

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2026**  
**10:00am**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

P     God loves you all the time.  
C     **All the time God loves you.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P     Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who pours love into our hearts  
and healing upon the earth.

C     **Amen.**

P     Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P     Compassionate God,

C     **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness  
in the world and in our own hearts.**

**Creation groans from overuse.**

**Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.**

**Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.**

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you.**

**Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.**

**Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

P     Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through , + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but  
only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C     **Amen.**

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here, in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

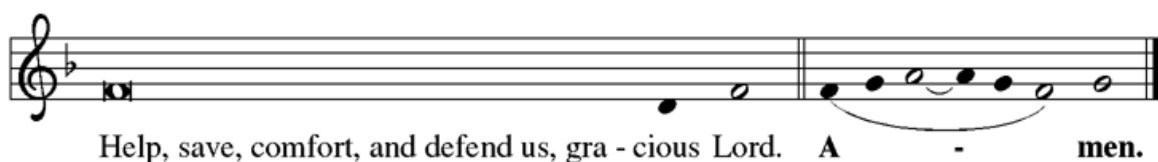
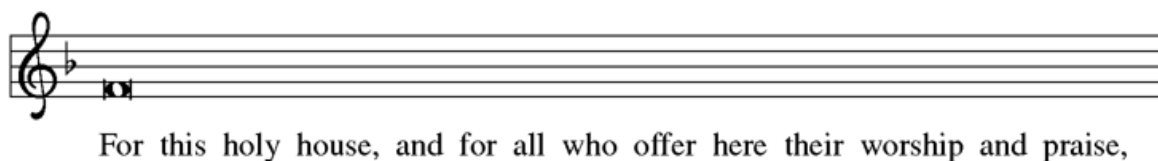
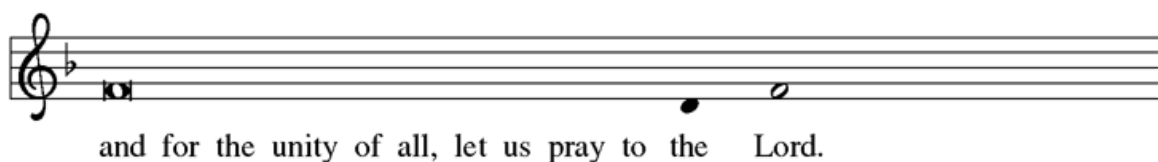
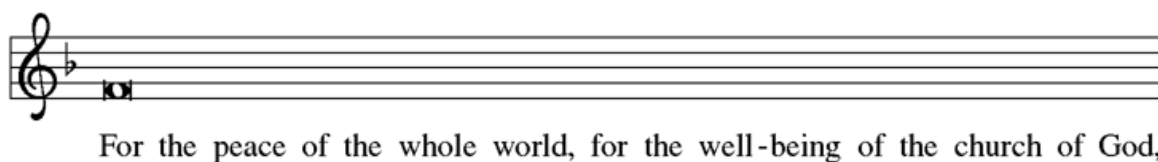
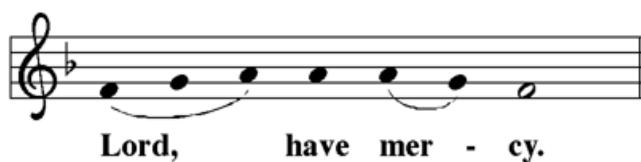
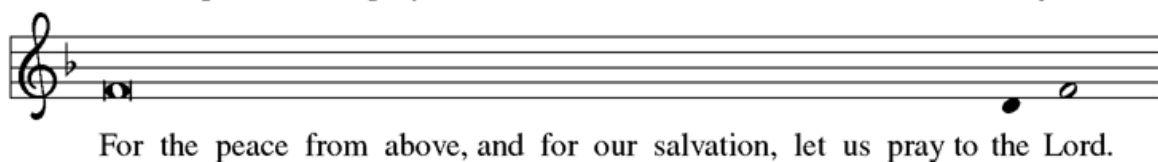
wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## GREETING

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

C And also with you.

# KYRIE



## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.  
Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us  
to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*please be seated*

## FIRST READING Jonah 3:10-4:11

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY Psalm 145:1-8

*read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> **Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup> **One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**

- <sup>5</sup> I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup> **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.**
- <sup>7</sup> They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup> **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## SECOND READING Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## 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. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16**

**P** The holy gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **MESSAGE**

*Please stand at the last verse as you are able.*

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** Let us profess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C** 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 into hell.  
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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

*A brief silence.*

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us share God's peace.

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

*Thank you so much for your support of Grace ministry through your worship.  
If you wish to make a donation to Grace, you can follow this link [www.glcde.org](http://www.glcde.org) or scan the QR code to  
make a donation on our website through the "GIVE" button in the upper right corner. You can also  
make a donation by placing your gift in our offering plates located inside both sanctuary doors.*



## ANTHEM

### *Praise the Lord of Heaven*

Eugene Butler

Praise the Lord of Heaven, praise him in the height,  
Praise him all ye angels, praise him, stars and light;  
Praise him, clouds and waters, which above the skies,  
When his word commanded, established did arise.

Praise the Lord, ye fountains of the deeps and seas,  
Rocks and hills and mountains, cedars and all trees;  
Praise him, clouds and rainbows, snow and hail and fire,  
Stormy wind, fulfilling only his desire.

Praise him, all earth's creatures, princes and all kings;  
Praise him, men and maidens, all created things;  
For the name of God is excellent alone,  
Over earth his footstool, o'er heaven his throne! Amen

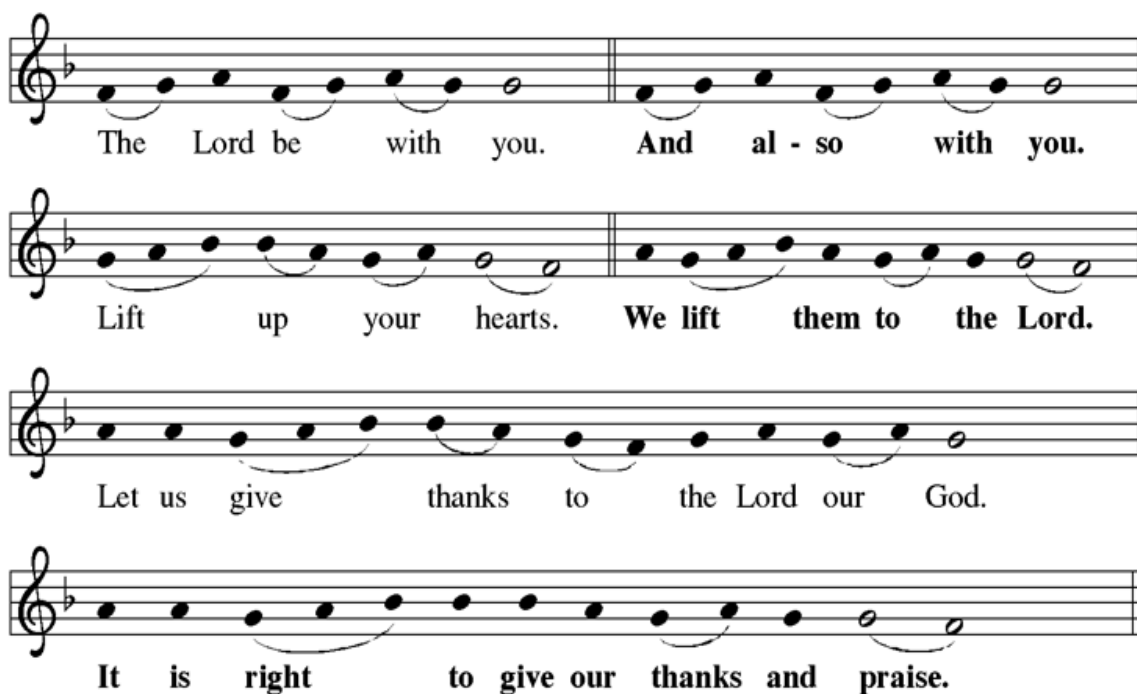
## OFFERTORY

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.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A God of creation,  
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us  
generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts  
in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
- C Amen.

## DIALOGUE



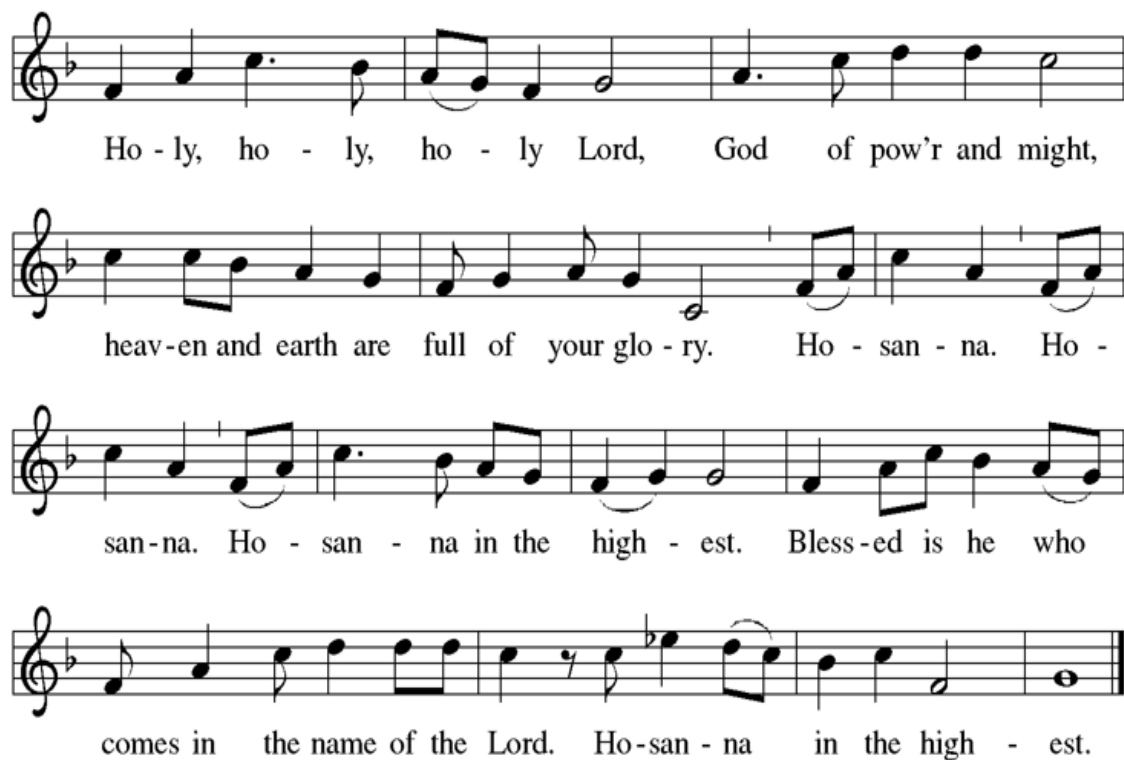
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

- P *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:*



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.  
 In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
 that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.  
 We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
 Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that  
 we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

P 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ invites you to this table.  
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!  
All are welcome at the table of the Lord

*You may be seated*

## COMMUNION



*Communion will be received at the head of the Sanctuary. Come down the center aisle and take a spot at the rail in front of your section furthest to the right and fill in from there, and receive the communion elements. After receiving communion, please return your cup to the bowl at the head of the side aisles and return to your seat. Elements at in-person worship are red wine and white grape juice. All bread is gluten-free.*

# HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

## *Jesus Loves Me!* ELW 595



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

*Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

# HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

## *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

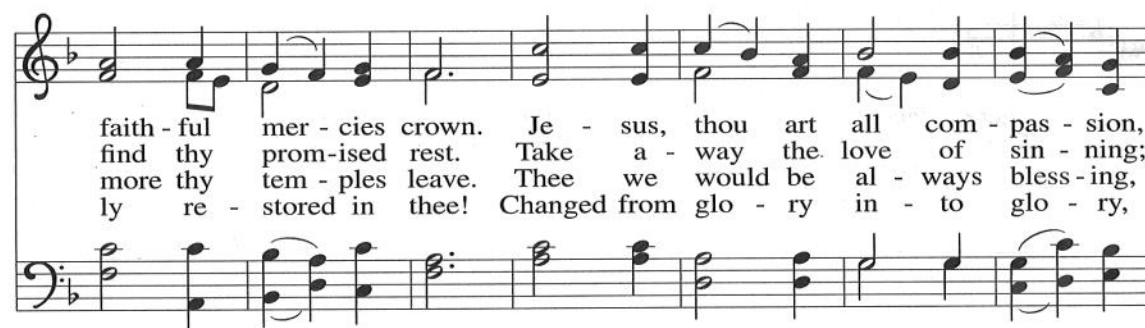
ELW 631



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

## HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

*How Good Lord to Be Here!* ELW 315

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;  
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold  
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,  
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;  
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;

your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.  
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.  
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.  
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C Amen.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Sustaining God,  
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send  
us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing,  
and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.  
C Amen.

## BLESSING

P The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.  
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace + bless you now and forever.  
C Amen.

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's 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 rose 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!

## DISMISSAL

- A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.  
 C **Thanks be to God.**



*The altar flowers are offered to the Glory of God by Bill Baur  
Thankful for the many blessings we receive every day.*

*Remembering*

*RUTH WARRINGTON BAUR*

*September 19, 1935 — November 2, 2023*

#### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

*Assisting Minister: Elinor Knodel*

*Greeter: Jay Snyder*

*Ushers: Jane Teasley, Mark Teasley*

*Reader: Abhi Yelampalli*

*Sound: Mark Maurer*

*Streamer: Tim Dambaugh*

*Nursery: Laura Mackiewicz, Kevin Mackiewicz*

*Refreshments: Jane Foskett, Rolf Eriksen*

*Offering Counters: Tim Dambaugh, Sue Eriksen*

#### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, HOCKESSIN DE**

**2033 Graves Road**

Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian

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