

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Holy Communion
October 18, 2026
9:30 am

Grace Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, PA

**-the congregation is invited to stand*

WELCOME TO GRACE

A warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us this autumn. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a guest card which are found in the pews. Following the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor.

We hope that this bulletin will help guide you through our worship service.

INTRODUCTION

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

God gathers us in unity.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

Mark Patterson

Emily Hartman - organ

***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 pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.*

Amen.

*Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
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.

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.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

O God beyond All Praising

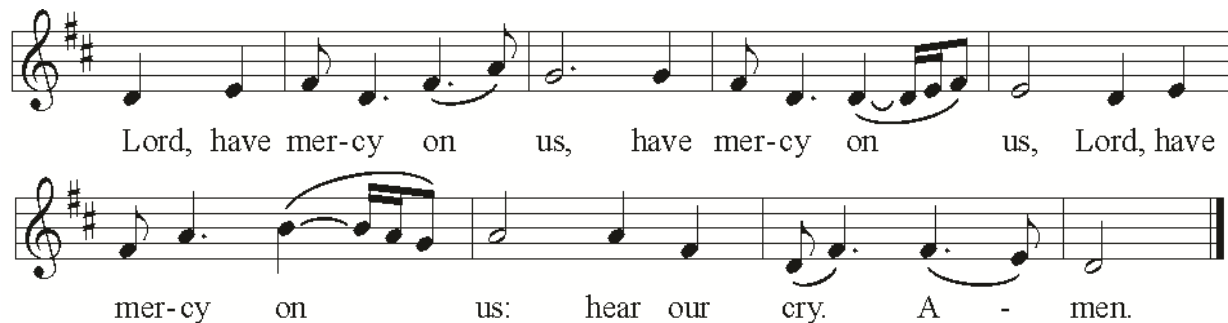
ELW#880

***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**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DISMISSAL FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The assembly may be seated.

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.

WORD

FIRST READING – Isaiah 45:1-7

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
- ² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
- ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
- ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM – Psalm 96:1-9

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

- ³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

SECOND READING – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention
you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God
and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know,
brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,
⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word
only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full
conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to
be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us
and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the
word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an
example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For
the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in
Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has
become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For
they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you
and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true
God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised
from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient
field will test with truth the proud-est that
hu - man work can yield. Op - pres - sion's blight will
van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease; and
love and joy will flour-ish to clothe the earth with peace.

*GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands as able.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW#742

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each prayer concludes:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace with one another.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

MEAL

OFFERING

We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today's regular offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church. You can give online, by cash, or by check.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Come, Jesus, Come

CeCe Winans

Julie Flook - voice

*SETTING THE TABLE

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

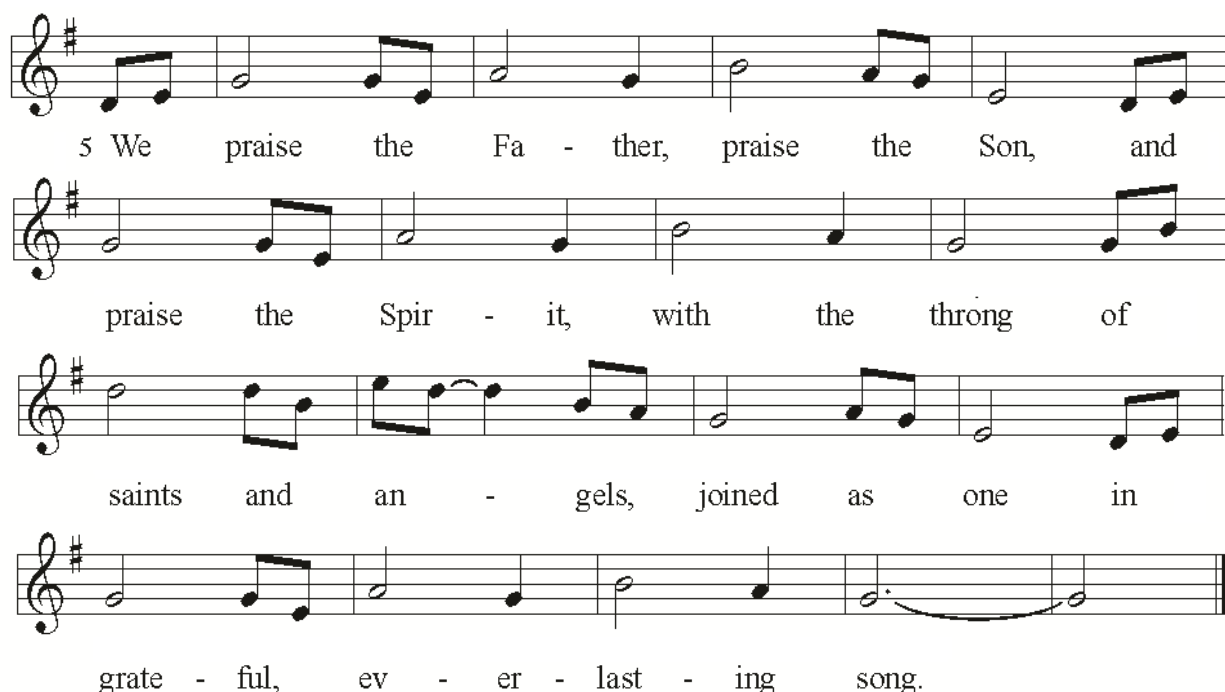
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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. Through your Son, you taught us that true riches are to be found in loving you rather than earthly treasure. For your glory, and to give us the fullness of life and salvation, Christ emptied himself upon the cross and was raised in power to sit at your right hand. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in adoring song.

***SANCTUS**



5 We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, and
praise the Spir - it, with the throng of
saints and an - gels, joined as one in
grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

***THANKSGIVING AT TABLE**

Let the peoples praise you, generous and abundant Creator: you scatter abroad and give to the poor; you provide seed to the sower and bread for food. Let the peoples praise you: you called Israel to be your chosen people, to preserve your word and to scatter it abroad. Let the peoples praise you: when time had ripened, you sent the Word, your Son, into the world, so that all might have life and have it abundantly.

*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, how he fed the hungry and gave company to outcasts; how he healed the sick and freed those in bondage; how he taught and guided those who were seeking you; how he was handed over and gathered in for our sake; how he was resurrected as the first fruits of the dead, and how he promised to return for the great harvest home; we give you thanks, not as we ought, but as we are able.

Send, we pray, your Spirit to this meal. Supply our needs, and those of all your saints, and fill us until we overflow with thanksgivings. Empowered by this meal, enlivened by your Spirit, move us to glorify you in faithfulness to the gospel and in generosity to all in need.

United by your Spirit with all people, we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ, to you, our Source and our Goal, our Sun and our Shield, our God now and forever.

Amen.

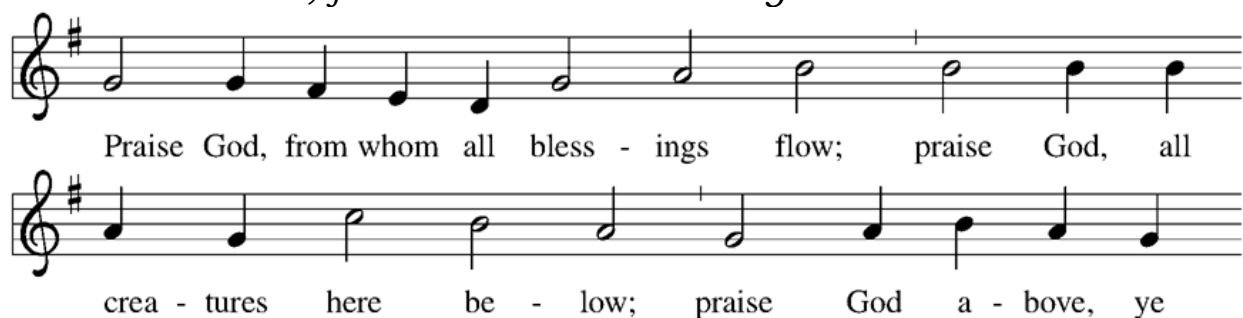
***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

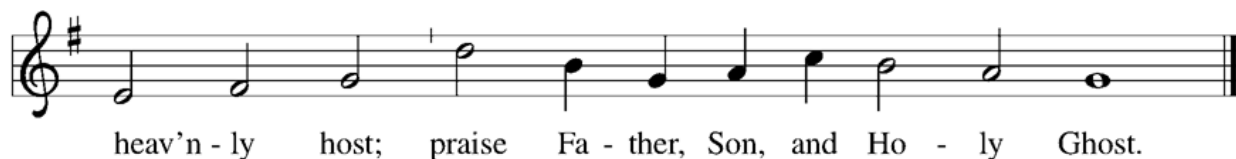
***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW#885



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all
creatures here below; praise God above, ye



***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Thanks be to God.

The assembly may be seated.

Those communing at home or in their seats are invited to prepare their elements then to be led through eating and drinking the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine.

The Lutheran Church welcomes all to the Lord's Supper. If you are not a Christian and wish to inquire about the Christian faith, we invite you to speak to the minister.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC



COMMUNION MUSIC

Here Is Bread

ELW#483

The assembly stands as able.

***BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of the Risen Lord strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

SENDING

***BLESSING**

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

How Great Thou Art

ELW#856

***DISMISSAL**

Serving, Loving, Growing in Faith.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

How Great Thou Art

O Store Gud

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding MinisterThe Rev. Dr. J. Richard Eckert
 Assisting Minister..... Sue Painter
 Lector.....Jen Graf
 AcolyteIsabella Weber
 Communion AssistantsMichelle Knight, Tom Pautz
 SoundLarry Hoffman
 Director of Music..... Kristopher Hartman
 Organist..... Emily Hartman
 Technology OperatorChris Jury

This Week at Grace: October 17-23, 2026

We make a difference by serving others through God's love and our faith.



Connect with Us



EVENTS

The Sanctuary Lamp for October is given by Brian & Lori Small in honor of grandson Josiah's 22nd birthday and granddaughter Saunee's 14th birthday.

The Altar Flowers are given by Adam & Hope Pankake in celebration of Claire & Eden Pankake's 14th birthday.

The Bulletins & Mailings are given to the Glory of God.

We hold in prayer especially this week....

Jess, Maggie Ryan, Mark Daniels, Deb Overly, Eileen Moore Hartzell, Karen Brown-Pautz, David & Lori Archer Family, Adam Handwerk, Tom Zimmerman, Jeff Johnson, Dr. Robert Little, Jaclyn Atkins, Robert Schweitzer, Alice M, and the friends and family of Nancy Mueller.

We hold in prayer the recently departed....

Nancy Mueller

Calendar

10/17-10/24		Journeys of Paul in Greece
10/17/26	5:00pm	Sabbath Service of Holy Communion in Barkley Chapel
10/18/26	9:30am	Service of Holy Communion in Sanctuary
	4:00pm	Junior Youth Group (JYG)
	5:00pm	Grace Youth Group (GYG)
10/19/26	6:30pm	Group Spiritual Formation in Small Conference Room
	7:00pm	Scouting America Troop 54 & Cub Scout Pack 54 Meeting
	7:00pm	Grace Book Club via Zoom
10/20/26	9:00am	Quilting Ministry in Quilt Room
	1:00pm	Bible Study CANCELLED
	5:00pm	New Cumberland Resource Fair at ReVi (148 Sheraton Dr., New Cumberland)
10/21/26	3:00pm	Grace Giving Pantry
10/22/26	6:00pm	Bells of Grace Rehearsal in the Balcony
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room

Grace's Book Club

Grace's Book Club will next be discussing "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee via Zoom on October 19th at 7pm. Please contact Melinda Bechtel at mcbbechtel@gmail.com if you have any questions or for login information.

New Cumberland Resource Fair

13th Resource Fair will be held at a much larger location at ReVi (148 Sheraton Dr., New Cumberland, PA 17070). This event is FREE. There will be 25+ community resource vendors, dinner, haircuts, grocery distribution, and a free swap are scheduled for our event!

Upcoming Events (See the [Events page](#) on the website for more details)

10/25	Reformation Sunday
10/29	Trunk or Treat & Haunted House
11/1	Fall Fest
11/6-8	Youth Retreat

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is November 1. This is the day we remember all the Saints in our lives who have left us. If there is a Saint in your life who entered heaven this year that you would like remembered, please let the church office (office@gracecamphill.org) know by **Monday, October 26.**

Operation Christmas Child

Grace will be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year. Starting on **Sunday, October 11**, shoeboxes and brochures will be available in the Neal Gathering Place to take home and fill. When filling the shoeboxes consider selecting a medium to large "wow" item such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then fill with other fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items. Don't forget to also include a personal note and photo – sometimes these are the child's favorite things to receive. The filled shoeboxes need to be returned to Grace and placed in the Conference Room by **Sunday, November 15.**

Fall Fest at Kentland Retreat Center – November 1, 4 – 6 pm

We'd love you to join us for an enjoyable evening filled with good food and great friends! We're hosting a chili cookoff*, along with fun crafts, music, dinner, and a cozy campfire with tasty s'mores to wrap up the night. There will be Chicken tenders for those who don't want chili along with bread, hot chocolate, and drinks. Please bring a side dish to share with everyone! Make sure to register and let us know if you're bringing chili or not by **Sunday, October 25th!** You can sign up **HERE**, swing by the bulletin board in the Neal Gathering Place or scan the QR code. We're looking forward to seeing you there! *If you'd like to enter the chili cookoff, just bring a crockpot of chili.



Consecration of Neal Gathering Place

We will be consecrating the the newly renovated Neal Gathering Place on **November 15th** immediately following worship. As a reminder, we will also be having breakfast afterwards in the Social Hall.

Grace's Merchandise Store

Looking for some awesome Grace gear? We've got a bunch of cool stuff like hats, polo shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, a windbreaker jacket, and water bottles. Plus, a part of every sale helps support Grace. Check it out here: <https://www.bonfire.com/store/grace-lutheran-camp-hill-merch/>.



GRACE MERCHANDISE

Special Benevolence Offering

The Special Benevolence for **October** is **Grace Giving Pantry**. To contribute, please list your dollar amount next to *Special Offering Ministry* on the contribution envelopes or use the online giving page, use the QR code or on the website page at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/give>



Give Now

Lost & Found Items

Have you lost an item recently? If so, please check with the office at 717-737-0439 or office@gracecamphill.org. Items will be kept in the office for (1) month. After that time, they will be placed in the Community Aid bin in the second parking lot.

Welcome to Our Church Cards

If you are visiting Grace at one of our worship services, please take a moment to complete one of the "Welcome to Our Church" cards found in the pews, both narthexes and in the Neal Gathering Place. We'd love to hear from you.

Good News from Grace articles are due by **12noon on the 15th of the month** for the next month's newsletter. **This Week at Grace** information is due by **12noon on Tuesdays**. Please email any information to ddeppen@gracecamphill.org.

O God beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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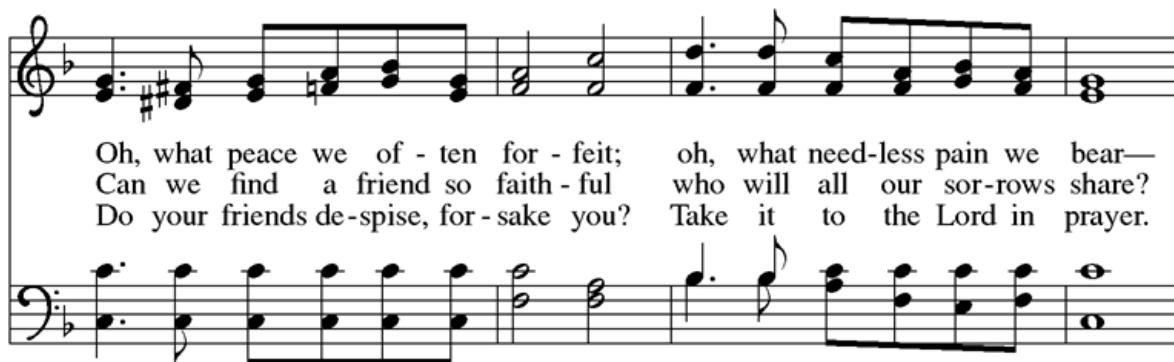
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

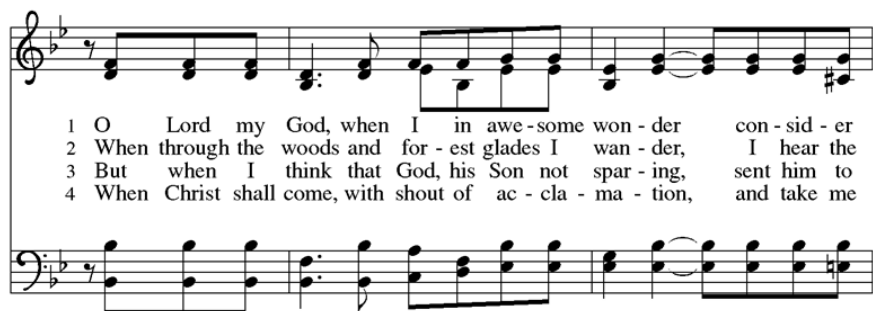


Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

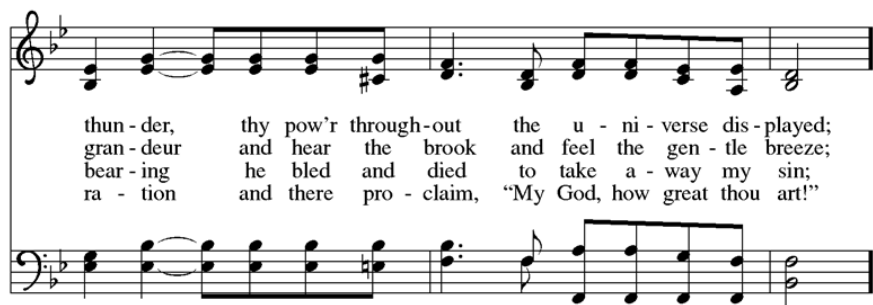
How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



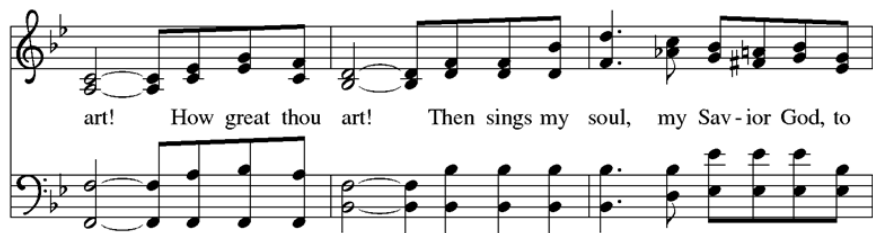
all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



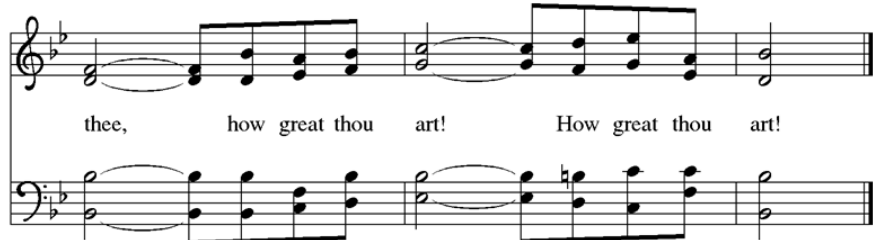
thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis-played;
 gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



Refrain
 Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Our Story

Matthew 25:35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”*

The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God’s love and our faith

Grace Church Staff

Senior Pastor The Rev. Chad Butz
..... 610.297.2514 (cell); pastorchad@gracecamphill.org
Pastor for Spiritual Formation.....The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Eckert
.....pastoreckert@gracecamphill.org
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Ethan Lentz
..... Ethan.Lentz@gracecamphill.org
Director of MusicKristopher Hartman
..... K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Organist Emily Hartman
..... K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Office Administrator/Sexton Chris Jury
..... cjury@gracecamphill.org
Administrative SpecialistDiane Deppen
.....ddeppen@gracecamphill.org

To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; office@gracecamphill.org
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

**Grace Lutheran Church * 1610 Carlisle Road *
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011**