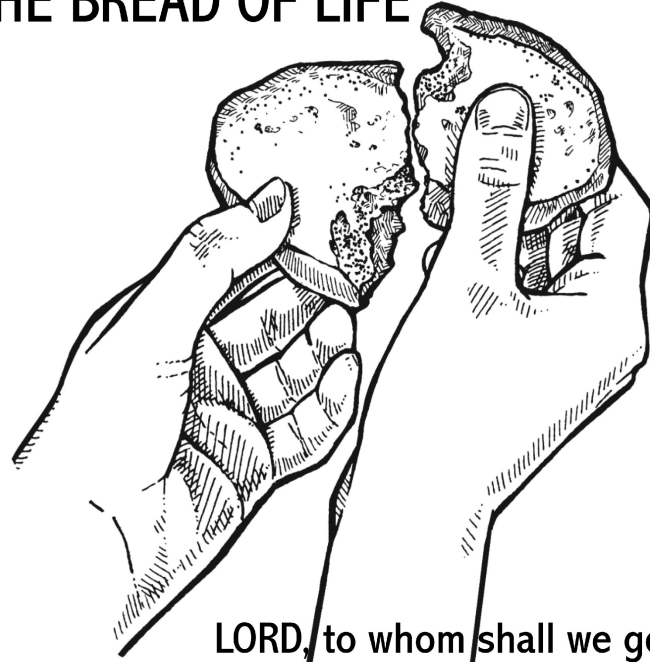


**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Thornville, Ohio

# THE BREAD OF LIFE



LORD, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.

JOHN 6:56-69

## THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 25, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

### VISITORS

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We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We're glad you are here.

### OUR WORSHIP

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Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. In turn, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

### PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

### PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

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*We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen*

## ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW Setting 2

Watchword: Jesus said, "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."  
– John 6:63 ESV

### PRELUDE | WELCOME | OPENING PRAYER

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#### Confession and Absolution

#### INVOCATION

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P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

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P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

#### ABSOLUTION

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*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*

#### Gathering

#### ENTRANCE HYMN

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

Green Book 495

*Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center isle at this time.*

#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



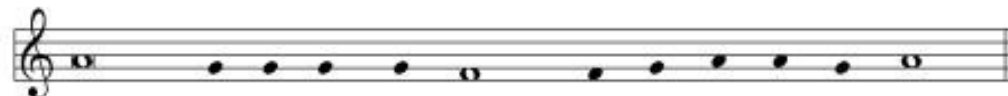
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



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

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE



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



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



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



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.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



P: Let us pray. God of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord.

C: Amen.

*The people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

*Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18*

L: A reading from Joshua.

*Whom will the people serve? Joshua calls a meeting to vote for or against God.*

<sup>1</sup>Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” <sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, <sup>17</sup>for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us

in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. <sup>18</sup>And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALMODY

*Psalms 34:15-22*

*The verses are chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.*



<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the Lord are up- | on the righteous,\* and his ears are open | to their cry.

<sup>16</sup>**The face of the Lord is against those | who do evil,\*  
to root out the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and | the Lord hears them\* and delivers them from | all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>**The Lord is near to the | brokenhearted\* and will save those  
whose spir- | its are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous,\* but the Lord will deliver him out | of them all.

<sup>20</sup>**He will keep safe | all his bones;\* not one of them | shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil shall | slay the wicked,\* and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

<sup>22</sup>**The Lord ransoms the life | of his servants,\* and none will be punished  
who | trust in him.**

L: A reading from Ephesians.

*There is a war going on around us, and God equips us for battle.*

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup>praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup>and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

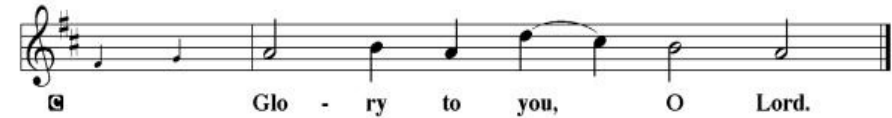
L: The Word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE VERSE**

*The people stand.*



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

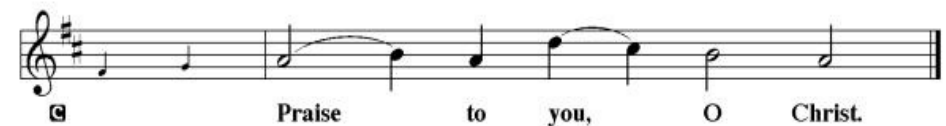


<sup>56</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup>As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup>And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup>and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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*The people may be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Green Book 499

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*The people stand.*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

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*After each petition:*

*A: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



## *The Liturgy of Holy Communion*

### THE PEACE

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P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.*

### OFFERING

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*Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Quiet music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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*The people stand.*

☞ 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.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 him thanks and praise.

## THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE EUCHARISTIC 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.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C: 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.**

## THE FRACTION

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P: Our Lord Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

**C: Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The people may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

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☩ 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

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*Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.*

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

*Hymns during distribution: Green Book 699, 734, 777*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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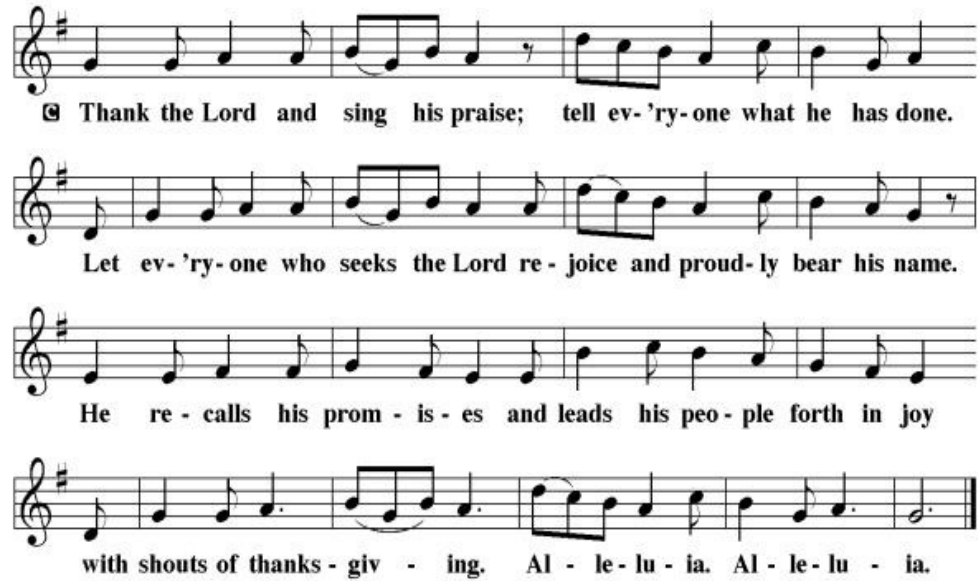
*The people stand.*

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

**C: Amen.**



## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

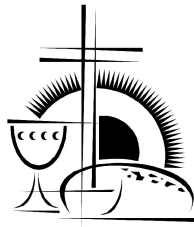


**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

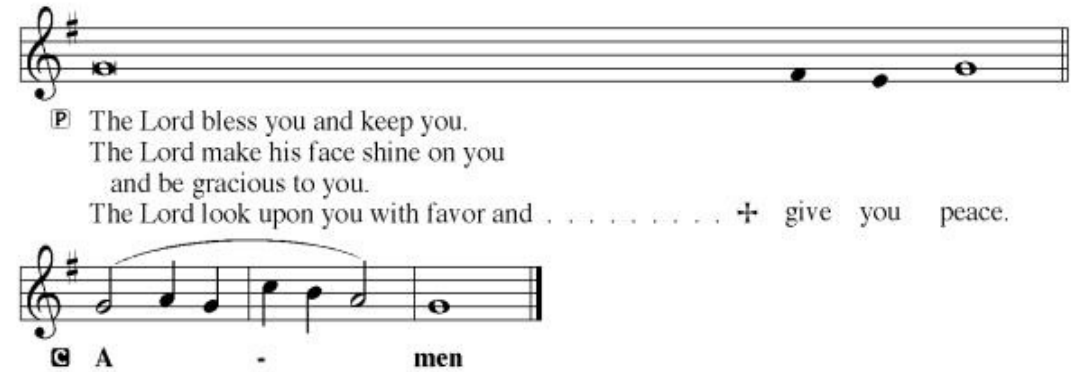
A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



## Sending

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
**C** A - - - men

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## SENDING HYMN

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Green Book 503

## THE POSTLUDE

*We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.*

## PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

*Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen*



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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



**COMMEMORATIONS:**

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As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

Aug. 28 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430

Aug. 31 John Bunyan, teacher, 1688 W

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE 15 PENTECOST (SEPTEMBER 1)**

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Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

Psalm 15

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23