

**Take my yoke upon you
and learn from me,**



**for I am
gentle and
humble in heart
and you will find rest for
your souls.** Matthew 11:29

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 9, 2023 | 8:00 and 10:30am

VISITORS

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 are glad you are with us.

OUR WORSHIP

Lutherans believe that the Gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners by his death and resurrection, but also the power by which God creates and strengthens faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the Gospel as the central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In preaching and Holy Communion, in specially selected Bible readings and songs, prayers and confessions, the liturgy points us to Jesus as our gracious Savior.

PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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

*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 1

Watchword: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. - Ephesians 2:8 ESV

PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER



Confession and Absolution

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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

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

The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The people stand.



Gathering

ENTRANCE HYMN “Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove” Green Book 475

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

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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 above, and for our salvation, 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 unity 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 worship and praise,

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

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-tious Lord. **C** A - men

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

A=Leader; C=all voices

A Glory to God in the highest, 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. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The people may be seated.



The Liturgy of the Word

THE FIRST LESSON

Zechariah 9:9-12

L: A reading from Zechariah.

Imagine a people captive. Their king comes into their midst to free them.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

PSALMODY

Psalm 145:8-14

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



⁸The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,* slow to anger and | of great kindness.

⁹**The Lord is loving to | everyone* and his compassion is over | all his works.**

¹⁰All your works praise | you, O Lord,* and your faithful | servants bless you.

¹¹**They make known the glory | of your kingdom* and speak | of your power;**

¹²that the peoples may know | of your power* and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an ever- | lasting kingdom;* your dominion endures through- | out all ages.**

¹⁴The Lord is faithful in | all his words* and merciful in | all his deeds.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 7:15-25a

L: A reading from Romans.

There is warfare inside us. Who will deliver us from captivity?

¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE VERSE

The people please stand.

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.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹⁶“But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, ¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’

¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A

glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Forth In Thy Name, O Lord, I Go”

Green Book 505

The people stand.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

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

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

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.

Special Music: Solo by John Ulmer "I Believe"

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

The people stand.

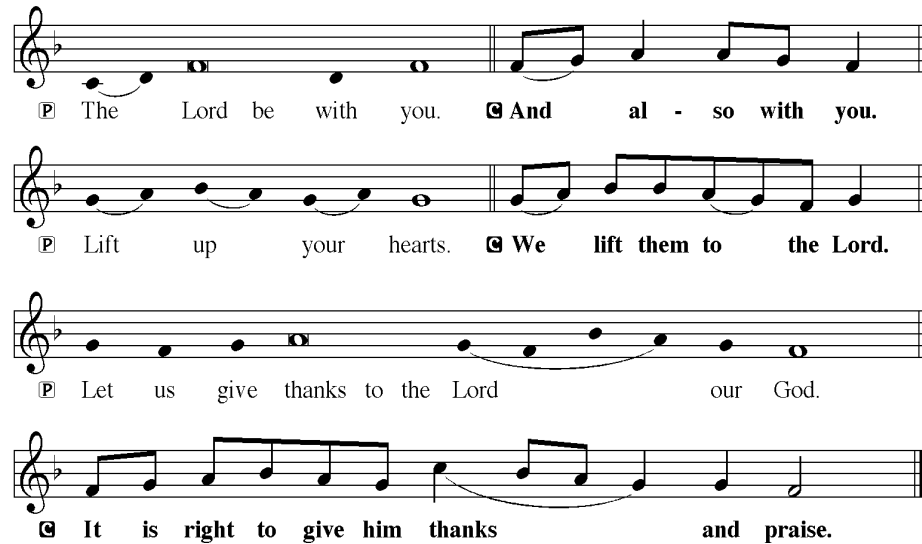
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave 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.

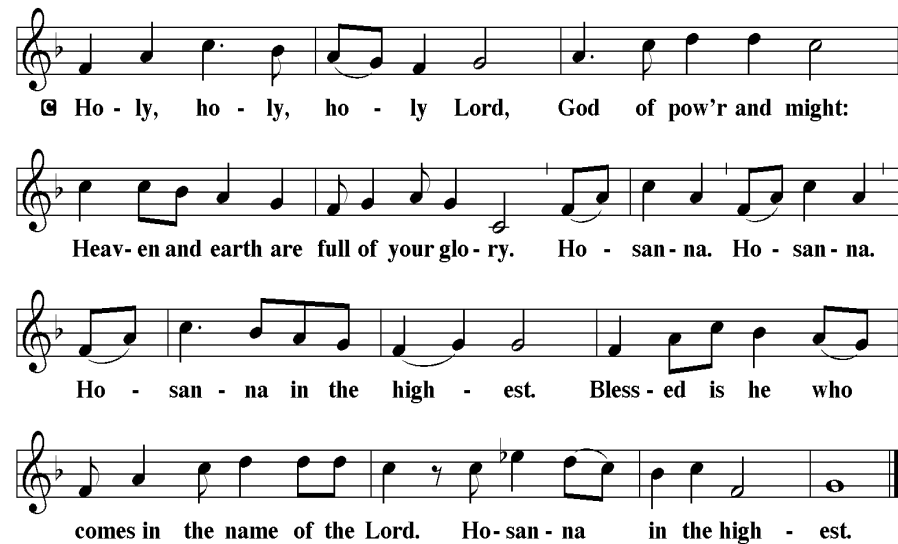
☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ 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, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

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

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

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Happy are those who take refuge in him!

The people may be seated.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

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, one side of the congregation will receive communion at a time, with ushers dismissing one pew at a time to maintain appropriate distance between those communing. Those coming forward to receive are asked to cup their hands so that the bread may be dropped into their hands. After you have received the bread, an usher wearing gloves will provide each person with an individual cup that will then be filled with wine by the assisting minister using a pouring chalice.

Only individual cups with grape juice will be filled beforehand. Coming forward to receive only the bread is perfectly acceptable. The church teaches that the entire Christ is received in both the bread and the wine. Those choosing not to receive communion can come forward for a blessing — signaled by having your arms crossed over your chest. When you have communed, you may return to your seat by way of the side aisle.

Hymns during distribution: Green Book 346, 222, 223

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The people please stand.

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

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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



☩ 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.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING HYMN *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* Green Book 456

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



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

65 E. Columbus St.

Thornville, OH 43076

(740) 246-6576

office@gracethornville.org

www.gracethornville.org

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



COMMEMORATIONS:

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:

- July 11 Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c. 540
- July 12 Nathan Söderblom, Archbishop of Uppsala, 1931
- July 15 Vladimir, first Christian ruler of Russia, 1015
Olga, confessor, 969

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE 7 PENTECOST (JULY 16)

Isaiah 55:10-13

Romans 8:1-11

Psalm 65:1-13

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23