

What good is it...  
if you say you  
have faith but  
do not have works?  
Can faith save you?

*James 2:14, NRSV*

## **THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 8, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Thornville, Ohio

### **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: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. – Psalm 146:2 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

*Earth and All Stars!*

Green Book 558

*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



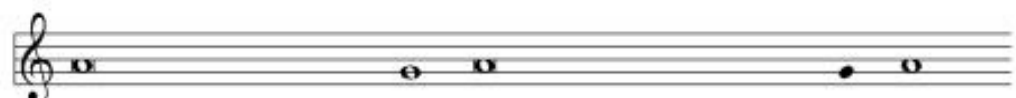
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



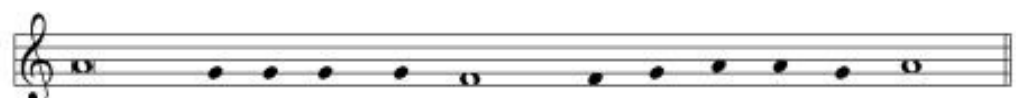
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



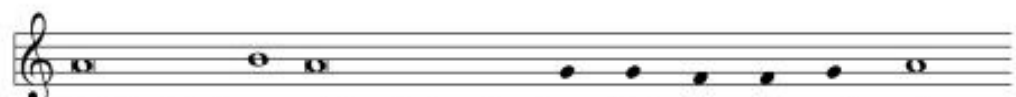
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



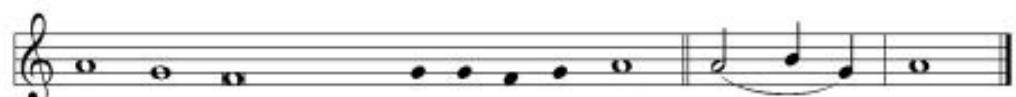
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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. Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*The people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 35:4-7a*

L: A reading from Isaiah.

*When God saves, there is a transformation. When God saves, a change takes place.*

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

## PSALMODY

*Psalm 146*

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



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, | O my soul!\* I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

<sup>2</sup>**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,\* for there is no | help  
in them.**

<sup>3</sup>When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,\* and in that day | their  
thoughts perish.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,\* whose hope is  
in the | Lord their God;**

<sup>5</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;\* who keeps his  
prom- | ise forever;

<sup>6</sup>**who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,\* and food to | those who  
hunger.**

<sup>7</sup>The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes | of the blind;\*  
the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed down;

<sup>8</sup>**the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares | for the stranger;\*  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of  
the wicked.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord shall | reign forever,\* your God, O Zion, throughout all  
generations. | Hallelujah!

## THE SECOND LESSON

James 2:1-10, 14-17

L: A reading from James.

James gives a warning against showing partiality to the rich. Good works are the fruit of our faith.

<sup>1</sup>My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. <sup>2</sup>For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

<sup>8</sup>If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

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

## THE VERSE

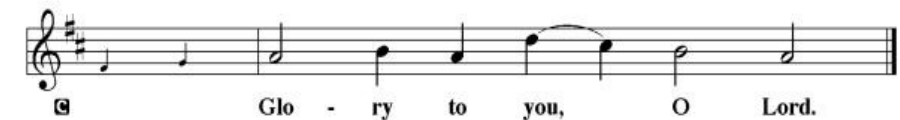
The people stand.



## THE GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

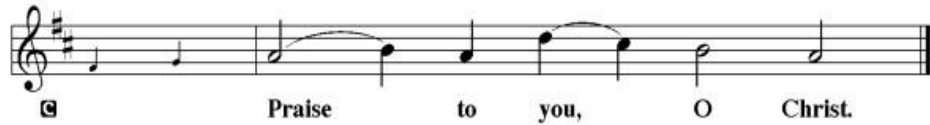


<sup>24</sup>And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. <sup>25</sup>But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put

his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



**SERMON** Pastor Tom Jacobson

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**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* Green Book 423

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*The people stand.*



*Installation of Adventures in Faith Leaders*

P: Just as our Lord Jesus devoted much of his ministry to teaching his followers, we, too, are called to make disciples through Word and Sacrament, teaching all that our Lord has commanded.

A: The following brothers and sisters in the faith have been asked to serve in a special capacity for the good of the entire faith community through the ministry of Christian Education. I ask them to come forward as their names are read.

*The leaders come forward.*

*Kris Lamphere, Jim Lewis, Karen Lewis, Linda Keaser,  
Jessica Rockey, Theresa Jacobson, Amber Feyh.*

P: The Lord God has gifted his church with faithful disciples and servants of the Word. We thank you for your willingness to serve among us in the ministry of education, that the mighty acts of God may be proclaimed in this place and to the ends of the earth.

St. Peter writes, "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters the oracles of God; whoever renders service as one who renders it by the strength that God supplies, in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10-11)

*The minister addresses the gathered leaders.*

P: Will you accept this position of leadership and responsibility within Church, in submission to the Word of God?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you provide instruction with diligence and patience, in accordance with the Scriptures and the teaching of the Lutheran church?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you strive to be an example of the Christian faith and life by your daily witness, and by your faithful participation in worship through Word and Sacrament?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you support your students, pray for them, and guide them in their learning and development?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*The minister addresses the congregation.*

P: Will you, as the people of God, pray for these leaders, assist them in the ministry of Christian Education as you are able, and support them in their serving to the glory of God?

**C: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

The minister addresses the gathered leaders.

P: May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things graciously give you the strength and spirit to carry them out. You are hereby installed as teachers and education leaders in this congregation.

A: Let us pray: Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have called these people to serve in the ministry of education, to assist parents in living out the baptismal promises they have made to their children, helping them to teach your Word and be a model of the Christian faith. Bless them and their work by pouring out your Holy Spirit upon them. Give them wisdom, patience, and the heart of a servant, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

The service continues with the Creed, followed by the Prayers of the Church.

## THE APOSTLE'S 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.

Choir Anthem (10:30 only): There Is a Balm in Gilead

## 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

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** 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

**C** 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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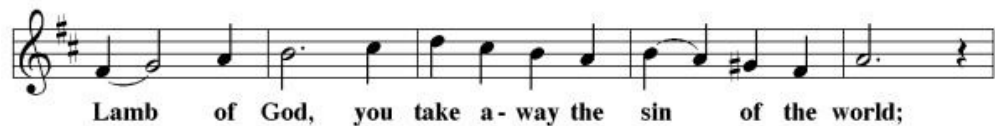
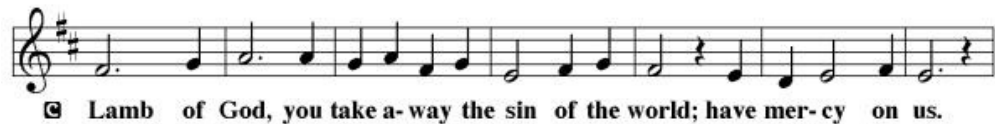
P: Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

**C: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

*The people may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

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## 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 200, 507, 559*

## 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

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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 - men

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

**SENDING HYMN**

*God, Whose Almighty Word*

Green Book 400

**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



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**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:

- Sept. 13 John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407
- Sept. 14 HOLY CROSS DAY

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE 17 PENTECOST (SEPTEMBER 15)**

Isaiah 50:4-9a      Psalm 116:1-9      James 3:1-12      Mark 8:27-38