

“He told them,  
‘You also  
go and  
*work*  
in my  
*vineyard*,  
and I will pay you  
whatever is right.”

MATTHEW 20:4, NIV

## THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023 | 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. 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 - BLUE BOOK SETTING 5

*Watchword: Our Savior Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. - 2 Timothy 1:10 ESV*

### PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER

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*GraceNotes Handbells (10:30 only): "Fanfare"*



## Confession and Absolution

### INVOCATION

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*The people stand.*

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: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### CONFESSION

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P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

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

P: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ABSOLUTION

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*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: Almighty God has mercy on you, forgives you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*



## Gathering

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*"Take My Life, that I May Be"*

Green Book 406

*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** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

*C=all voices; I=female voices; II=male voices*

**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**I** 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.

**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**III** 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.

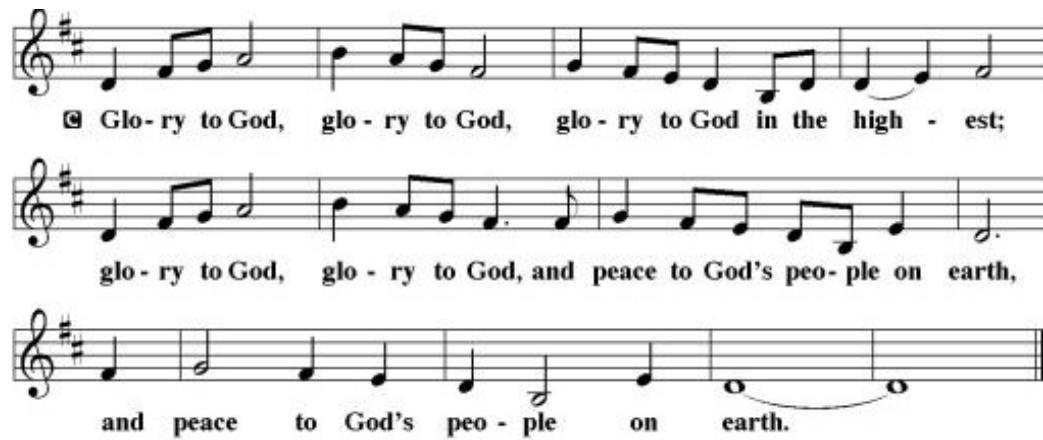
**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**I** 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

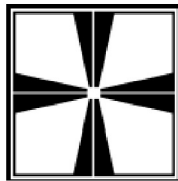
P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

*Jonah 3:10-4:11*

L: A reading from Jonah.

*The prophet Jonah is disappointed at God's mercy toward Nineveh. God expands Jonah's perspective.*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. <sup>4:1</sup>But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. <sup>2</sup>And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. <sup>3</sup>Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

*Psalm 145:1-8*

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



<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, O | God my King,\* and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day | will I bless you\* and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised;\* there is no end | to his greatness.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works | to another\* and shall de- | clare  
your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will ponder the glorious splendor | of your majesty\* and all your | marvelous  
works.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall speak of the might of your | wondrous acts,\* and I will tell | of  
your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;\* they shall sing  
of your | righteous deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,\* slow to anger and | of  
great kindness.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Philippians 1:21-30*

L: A reading from Philippians.

*Paul desires to complete his course on earth and be with Christ. But God's purpose for him in this life is not over.*

<sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

<sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. <sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 20:1-16*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

P: <sup>1</sup>“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.    **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

Pastor Tom Jacobson

*The people may be seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    “*In Christ There Is No East or West*”    Green Book 359

*The people stand.*

(10:30 only - continue with the Apostles’ Creed, pg. 14)



## *The Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

*Jax Raphial Emmert (8:00 am)*

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ says in the last chapter of Matthew: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark, our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that all humanity is sinful and born in need of salvation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent his Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Let us call upon God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that in his goodness and mercy he will receive Jax by baptism and make him a member of his holy Church.

*The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of the candidate.*

P: Jax Raphial, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your head and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, according to your judgment you condemned the wicked and unbelieving by the waters of the ancient flood, yet according to your great mercy you preserved believing Noah and his family. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet you led your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of your Holy Baptism. Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, was baptized by John in the Jordan River and fulfilled that baptism by his death and resurrection. He made water a sign of cleansing and rebirth.

Grant that Jax would be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church and all of his days grow in faith, love, and obedience to your will, serving you at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope.

**C: Amen.**

P: Parents, as you present your child for baptism, you are entrusted with gifts and responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the services of God's house and the Supper of our Lord, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that by word and example he may learn to trust God in life and in death.

Sponsor, you are a witness that this child has been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You are also to remember him before God in prayer, and if the parents are not able to fulfill their obligations, you shall, as far as possible, see to it that the Holy Scriptures are placed in his hands, that he is taught the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, and that he is brought to the services of God's house, so that as he grows in years, he may abide in Christ, even as now, through Holy Baptism, they have been grafted into him.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

*The pastor addresses the parents and sponsor of the candidate and asks the following questions:*

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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 pastor pours water three times on the head of the candidate while saying:*

Jax Raphial is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The pastor marks the sign of the cross with oil on the forehead of the baptized:*

P: Jax Raphial, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

The parents and sponsors respond: "Amen."

*The assisting minister presents the parents and sponsor of the candidate with a burning candle lit from the paschal candle while the pastor says:*

P: Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the light of the world. Live always by the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for his coming, that you may meet him with joy and enter with him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom, which shall have no end.

P: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the parents of Jax. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*The assisting minister speaks the following:*

A: In Holy Baptism, God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother in Christ, that together we might hear his Word, receive his gifts, and proclaim the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

*The baptismal party returns to the pews, the service then continues with the prayers.*



## THE APOSTLES' CREED (10:30am only)

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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: Hear us, O God; C: your mercy is great.*

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.*

*GraceNotes Handbells (10:30 only): "Ode to Joy"*

## 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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
 Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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A: Let us pray. Merciful God,

**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

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P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also 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

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

### THE SANCTUS

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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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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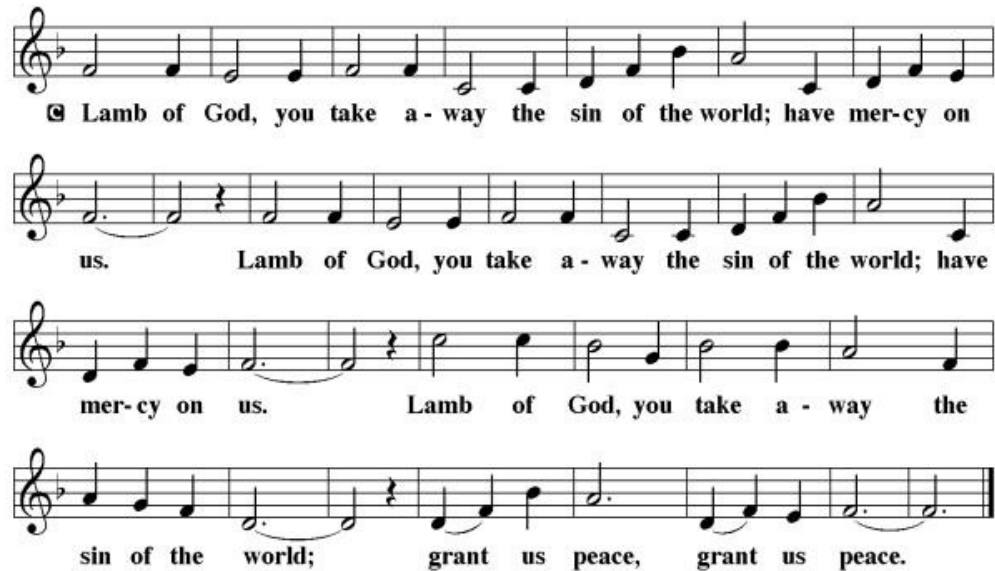
P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**C: Happy are those who take refuge in him!**

## LAMB OF GOD

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*The people may be seated.*



☞ 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 212, 197, 327*

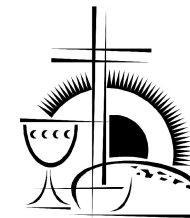
## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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*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

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☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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A: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



## Sending

### THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**SENDING HYMN** "All People That On Earth Do Dwell" Green Book 245

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### THE POSTLUDE

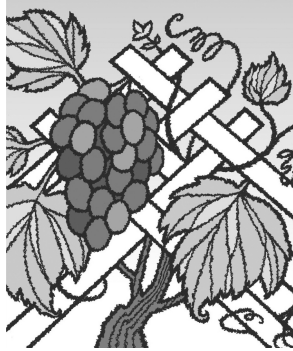
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*We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.*

### PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

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*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:

- Sept. 25 Sergius of Radonezh, Abbot of Holy Trinity Moscow 1392
- Sept. 29 St. Michael and All Angels
- Sept. 30 Jerome, translator, teacher, 420

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE 18 PENTECOST (OCTOBER 1)**

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Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32  
Philippians 2:1-13

Psalm 25:1-9  
Matthew 21:23-32